

# *The* NATIONAL WOOL GROWER



Volume XXVIII Number 5

MAY, 1938

## Stockmen-Sportsmen Cooperation

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## Wool News

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## The Public Grazing Lands

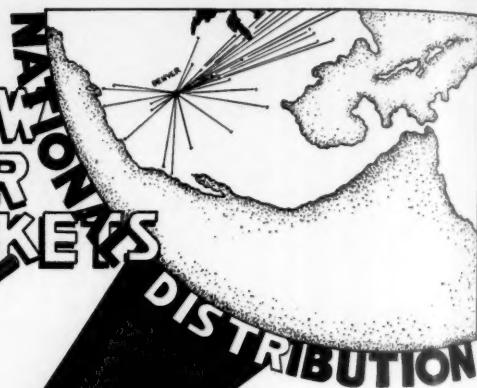
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The . . .

# DENVER

*Market*

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MARKETS



is right on the line of march between the vast producing areas of the West and the consuming territory in the East.

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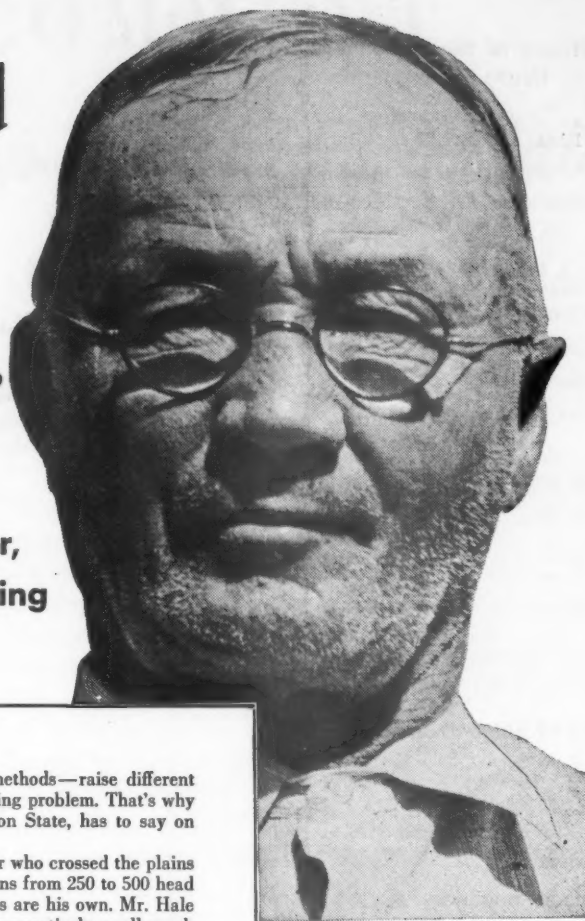
The teeth of the 5-W are thin from side to side and skillfully pointed the way shearers like them so they enter the wool freely.

Shearers tell us that it is easy to tag with the 5-W comb and that because of the shape of the runner-like projections on the raised teeth, there is little tendency for wool yolk to gather on the lower side or between the teeth. The Stewart 5-W is the right solution of the old problem of how to keep all the advantages of machine shearing and still leave enough wool on for proper protection.



# Chain Store Method *is right* for farmers

Carp Hale, Washington cattle rancher, says Safeway's "straight road" marketing boosts producer's income



#### TO UTAH FARMERS

Farmers in the different Western states use different production methods—raise different crops. But all Western farmers have much the same kind of marketing problem. That's why you'll find much to interest you in what Carp Hale, of Washington State, has to say on marketing.

Carp Hale started learning about cattle from his father, a pioneer who crossed the plains by oxcart back in '52. On 1500 acres of top-notch pasture land he runs from 250 to 500 head of livestock. Most of this land he leases from the Indians; 160 acres are his own. Mr. Hale believes specializing has helped him make a good living from his comparatively small ranch operation. He concentrates on cattle for slaughter

"IT'S HARD for any farmer to learn that because he does well with one crop, he won't do twice as well with two," says Carp Hale.

"I'm no different from most. Finding that out cost me plenty. But it was the best investment I ever made."

Carp Hale today, just turned 70, is a believer in specializing—picking out a single job and doing it well, in agriculture and all fields. There are lots of steps between the time a calf is dropped until the housewife serves a steak. But when Mr. Hale has readied his cattle for slaughter, he thinks it's time for him to quit and let other specialists carry on.

#### Chains are Marketing Experts

"You take marketing, for instance," he told me. "There's a field where we need specialists. And farmers are fortunate to have the help of chain stores like Safeway—they're real specialists in food distribution."

It seems Carp Hale has been interested in the chain store method of selling farm products for a long time. He's watched this system grow, and can tell you why it deserves to grow.

"The way I figure it," says Mr. Hale, "the straight road between producer and consumer is best for everybody. When waste motion is cut out all along the way—like the chains do—there's bound to be money-savings for customers and bigger returns for producers.

"Once in awhile I used to hear farmers knock the chains. I don't notice much of that any more. One reason, of course, is that nowadays the chain stores understand better what problems farmers have—and they're working intelligently to help us solve those problems. The Farmer-Consumer sales campaigns sponsored by Safeway, and now conducted by other chains too, are a big step in the right direction.

"Another thing is, people in farm communities are more progressive than they used to be—more ready to meet the fellow with a sound, new idea halfway."

#### Safeway Helps Community

All business is better in the Yakima country because Safeway stores are located there, Carp Hale believes.

"Safeway buys locally and pays cash," he told me. "In an agricultural district like ours this kind of steady buying has a stabilizing effect on crop prices. And Safeway provides a big outlet for quality farm products.

"As Mrs. Hale tells you, we're regular Safeway customers. Money-savings aren't the only reason. We like to support firms that build up our community. And there isn't any doubt that Safeway stores, with their sound business plan and honest policies, make for better living here."

THE SAFEWAY FARM REPORTER

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Irene Young, *Assistant Editor*

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**SUBSCRIPTION RATES**—Payment of dues in the National Wool Growers Association includes a year's subscription to the National Wool Grower. Dues and subscriptions are received along with state association dues by the secretaries shown for the following states: Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Texas, Washington and Wyoming. To non-members in the United States and Canada \$1.50 per year; foreign, \$2.00 per year.

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# EDITORIAL COMMENT

## *On Sheep and Wool Affairs*

April brought no official actions by government departments or by the Congress of direct concern to wool-growers or farmers.

The Department of State has given no indication as to the time at which the terms of the trade agreement with the United Kingdom and the extended agreement with

### **At Washington**

Canada will be made public. As yet, no official statement has been made regarding an Australian agreement, although dispatches show that residents of that country consider that a trade agreement with the United States is certain to be reached.

The conference committee that is shaping up the Senate and House form of the Customs Administrative Bill (H. R. 8099) has not completed its work. We feel certain that we will finally obtain real improvement in the handling of the duty rates on carpet wool by-products.

Much progress was made on the Fabric Labeling Bill. The Senate Committee on Interstate Commerce reported favorably on the new Schwartz Bill (S. 3502). This bill is now No. 1754 on the Senate Calendar. Senators Austin (Vermont) and White (Maine) recently objected to taking it up under the unanimous consent rule, and we now are expecting it to be set down for early debate and vote. Now is the time for friends of this legislation to write their senators.

Mr. J. B. Wilson, and later Mr. Cunningham (Texas), have been in Washington recently looking after legislation favored by our association.

Much as they dislike to do so, woolgrowers and other business men must watch Washington affairs these days for guidance upon general business and financial matters and in connection with their own industry as

### **Recovery**

well. In the main, the administrative acts are now more important than legislation, though the Senate revised tax bill is the most helpful thing that has come to business in many moons. There can be no decrease in raising of revenue for the government for a very long time. In fact, the necessity for heavier taxes is still growing. But changes such as those fathered by Senator Harrison, and which adjust the tax load upon business more equitably, go far toward removing the feeling that government is antagonistic to business. They help to restore the confidence in safety of investments in new productive enterprises.

The President's new monetary-spending program has so far failed to receive such support as was given former

efforts at pump-priming, though no doubt the suggested four and a half billion dollars will be voted and spent or loaned. It is being pointed out that expenditures will be effective only while they are being made unless the economic system is put into better working order, and for this purpose, the greatest need is confidence in government.

Lowering of bank reserves by action of the Federal Reserve Board, and giving of new loan funds to the Reconstruction Finance Corporation will increase the supply of available credit. But there is already a large volume of unused credit in banks. Some of this may now go into the bond market and aid in the refunding of corporation issues. But the new enterprises which are needed to improve things for the heavy industries also need assurance and stimulation of confidence in the trend of business, and in the government's economic and financial policies.

The national wildlife program that has developed in recent years has undoubtedly come to stay. Recreation has become a business and is promoted by many concerns whose interest is commercial. The former intensity and the later discouragements of business occupation and employment find antidotes in the outdoor life. There is a large kick in getting back to the primitive through pursuit and killing of big game or shooting of birds.

Until recently, sportsmen seemed to think that their desire for large supplies of game at public expense could only be satisfied in the West by reduction of domestic livestock. Reports of the Forest Service show very rapid rates of increase in big game animals, and eastern and some western sportsmen see that there is much more game to shoot at than they had realized.

In the January issue of the *Wool Grower* we printed a sane discussion of the problem from the pen of the chief of the division of wildlife management in the Forest Service. In this issue, Dr. A. B. Hatch, assistant professor of game management at the University of Idaho, takes up the question from another angle. The nub of Dr. Hatch's treatise is in these two sentences:

"Happily, wildlife can be brought back in sufficient numbers to satisfy the most ardent sportsman without injury to livestock. It is the task of the stockmen to convert the sportsmen to the knowledge by friendly gestures, not by conflict."

The *Wool Grower* invites further discussion by stockmen or sportsmen of means of maintaining the game supply in conjunction with an adequate livestock supply.



## Progress in Government Wool Loans

**W**OOL loans are now being made after some delays caused by bad shearing weather and by hitches in the designations of approved warehouses at which services of appraisers will be furnished.

The first appraisals were made in Boston, on May 2, on wools held by the Central Wool Warehouse Corporation which is controlled by the National Wool Marketing Corporation. Consigned wools of the 1937 clip are being appraised along with 1938 arrivals.

Scattering of warehousing points and consequent difficulty in making appraisals is not favored by the San Francisco agency which controls wool warehousing in part of the 12th Federal Reserve District. It was also announced that all warehousing for that territory would be done at San Francisco, Stockton, Oakland, Salt Lake City, Ogden and Idaho Falls.

In the other part of the 12th District, having offices at Portland, the Municipal Terminal No. 4 (at the wharf) was designated as a wool warehouse on April 28. The Commission of Public Docks has announced a charge of \$1.35 per ton for unloading and 30 days storage, and 75 cents per ton per month for additional storage. For getting out and repacking sample bags, the charge is to be 20 per cent above actual cost of labor or materials used. These charges do not include insurance. However, most wools handled by cooperatives or dealers are under insurance when the owner signs up.

The warehouse of the Pacific Wool Growers has also been approved at Portland. This cooperative is advancing 70 per cent of the estimated loan value at 4 per cent when wools are loaded at the ranch, and the balance of the loan following official appraisal.

Growers needing to know the location of approved warehouses should write to Reconstruction Finance Corporation at one of the following cities that is nearest: Boston, Chicago, Houston, Kansas City, Los Angeles, Louisville, Minneapolis, Omaha, Philadelphia, Portland, San Antonio, San Francisco, St. Louis.

## Appraisal Charges

There have been some expressions of dissatisfaction over the announced charge of 20 cents per bag for appraisal to determine the amount of the loan to be made. As a matter of fact, this charge of 20 cents per bag will not actually be borne by the grower, unless it shall develop that the Commodity Credit Corporation takes over the wool. And there is no desire or intention on the part of the Corporation to take over its collateral. Only in the event of a very long-continued, low market situation would that be likely to happen, and there is a considerable margin of safety on the loans for the corporation under the present market.

When, as fully is expected, the clips loaned upon are sold, and at figures in excess of the loan, the grower will obtain all the proceeds, less warehouse charges, and then repay his loan. The sale will have no regard for the appraisal charge. All that the grower will be out will be the use of the 20 cents per bag as a part of his loan, but he will not finally pay it unless his clip fails to sell for the amount of the loan, and the loan turns out to be the sale price. Selling charges will be deductible from the proceeds of final sale only in the event that there is sufficient balance to meet them after discharging the loan and paying approved warehouse charges.

## Court Decision Reverses Secretary of Agriculture

**T**HE decision of Secretary Wallace in respect to commission rates for selling livestock at the Kansas City Market was reversed in a decision rendered by the United States Supreme Court on April 25.

The Court distinctly said that it expressed no opinion as to the merits of the decision or the reasonableness of the rates which the Secretary had ordered to be placed in effect. The difficulty was with the legal steps in arriving at the decision which took the form of the Secretary's order of June 14, 1933.

That order called for a lowering of commission charges on double-deck cars of sheep to \$15.60. The previous

rate was \$20. Since the publication of the order, the difference between the old and the proposed rates had been held under separate fund in order that refunds could be made to shippers if the Secretary's rates were finally sustained in the court procedure. The \$20 rate on double-deck cars of sheep and the other old rates now become legal, and the \$750,000 which had accumulated for possible refunding reverts to the commission houses.

It will now be necessary for the Department of Agriculture to initiate a new hearing for the determination of what are at present reasonable rates for selling livestock at the Kansas City market.

The history of this case goes back to April 7, 1930. At that time former Secretary of Agriculture Hyde started a proceeding to determine the proper rates. After due process, the Secretary issued his order on May 18, 1932. Later, however, he vacated the order and granted a rehearing in order to give the market agencies an opportunity to show a change of conditions and a need for rates higher than for the year 1929, upon which the original hearing had been based. The taking of evidence in the rehearing was concluded on November 16, 1932. The oral argument on this case was heard under the new administration before Acting Secretary of Agriculture Rexford G. Tugwell on March 24, 1933. On June 14, Secretary Wallace signed the order prescribing the rates that amounted to \$15.60 for double-deck cars of sheep, and other rates correspondingly lower than those previously prescribed and set aside by Secretary Hyde.

The Court objected to the methods employed by the Secretary of Agriculture in reaching his decision. Lawyers who brought the appeal for the commission men had raised objection to the fact that while the order of 1933 was signed by Secretary Wallace, yet as a matter of fact, the argument which preceded that order was presented before Mr. Tugwell as Acting Secretary. The Supreme Court reversal of the district court, however, was based on the fact that the appellant had not had a "full hearing." This appears to have been based largely on the idea that no proposed report and basis of findings



had been made available to the defendants at the time the oral argument was conducted in advance of the announcement of the official order. The court considered that the commission men were entitled to having the opportunity to examine the report which it was proposed to adopt, and to have a statement of the facts upon which the officials working under the Secretary of Agriculture based their proposed findings. In several recent cases, the Packers and Stock Yards Administration has employed the plan of preparing a proposed report and making it available to attorneys for defendants in advance of the oral argument.

### Yardage Charges Raised At St. Joseph

**A**FTER five and one half years of litigation, the case of yardage charges at the St. Joseph Market finally were settled by a decision of the U. S. Supreme Court rendered April 27, 1936. The Secretary of Agriculture was fully sustained and the charges which had last been prescribed May 4, 1934, came into effect. The 1934 rates caused reductions from the previous charges of 8 cents per head on cattle, 4 cents on hogs, and 2 cents on sheep. \$150,000 of excess charges collected during the court's consideration of the case were ordered to be refunded to shippers.

Now, on April 13, 1938, the same Secretary, without hearings and without notice to, or consultation with those who pay the yardage charges, has authorized full restoration of the previous high yardage rates on all classes of stock as follows: cattle, 38 cents; sheep, 8 cents; and hogs, 12 cents.

The rates prescribed by the Secretary in 1934 were based upon estimated receipts per year of 400,000 cattle, 1,200,000 sheep, and 1,375,000 hogs, which would furnish a net operating profit of \$192,010. The yards company now claims that its actual profit in 1937 was only \$51,421. The company estimated that its receipts in 1938 will be 6 per cent above 1937. Estimated expenditures include a wage increase of 9.3 per cent given employees in 1937.

Many stockyards companies are

faced with declining receipts, and the charges made for selling are undoubtedly responsible for much of that decline in volume of business. Under the system adopted by the Bureau of Animal Industry for calculating reasonable yardage rates at St. Joseph in 1934, there was allowed a return of 7 per cent on a property valuation of \$2,743,000. As volume of business declines, the rate of charge must therefore be advanced. As country selling

increases, stockyards charges will advance and further promote country selling.

It looks as though the government is doing its best to guarantee a fixed rate of return upon investments in stockyards. And it seems that the road is going to progressively grow more difficult and impose higher charges upon the stockmen who would like to sell at public markets.

### Late Wool News

**S**ALES of wool in the West have continued through April and early May in a very moderate volume. For the most part, the wools that have been sold in Texas, Colorado, Wyoming and Utah have brought 2 or 3 cents per greased pound more than they would have been entitled to under the government loan plan.

At a sealed bid sale at Rawlins, Wyoming, three clips of fine wool were sold at 17½ cents, 17½ cents, and 17¾ cents. In the same vicinity there were private sales running as high as 17¾ cents, with one clip at 19 cents.

Something over 30,000 fleeces were taken in Nevada at 19½ cents. The lower-priced wools in New Mexico were reported as having an unusually high shrink, and probably sold as nearly in line with the market as did the higher-priced clips.

The highest sale reported so far was that of the Winder and Pitchforth clips at Craig, Colorado, at 25 cents. Last year these clips brought 35 cents.

There was considerable interest in the wool auctions, principally of 1937 wools, held by Merrion and Wilkins Company at Denver on May 2 to 4, and at Ogden, Utah, during the balance of the same week. A total of between 4 and 5 million pounds of wool was offered at the two sales, and was made up of 312 separate lots of varying weights. A total of about one half million pounds was sold in the regular auction bidding, with the high price for sizeable range clips running from 19 to 21 cents. Some smaller light-shrinkage ranch clips brought 23 and 24 cents. Some heavy-shrinking Montana and Wyoming fine clips that sold below 19 cents were considered to have been as

nearly in line with the current Boston market as the lighter clips that brought more money.

On Saturday, the last sale day at Ogden, a volume of Denver and Ogden wools was disposed of at private sale, bringing the total sales for the series up to about one and one half million points.

While a considerable number of order and dealer buyers attended the sales, most of the purchases were made by three or four concerns. The largest sales were made to Mr. Hackett representing Nichols and Company of Boston, who purchased in excess of 800,000 pounds. William Albizette, who handled the orders for several mills, took a total of 350,000 pounds.

A reserve price was placed on all lots, each owner being given the opportunity of setting this reserve price on his clip. Experts at the sale considered that the lots sold brought from 2 to 3 cents per pound less than current Boston quotations on similar wools, but that they still were considerably above the amount of the loans that could have been obtained on the same clips.

#### At Boston

Although business in Boston and the West during the first week of May was somewhat slower, yet the foreign markets were reported as fully steady. The government report for April said:

Broadening of outlets for wool during April appears to have reflected not only some improvement in the market for wool goods but also low inventories of raw wools in the hands of manufacturers and topmakers. The quarterly report by the Bureau of the Census for stocks of wool on hand on March 26, 1938, showed a moderate reduction in the amount of wool held by manufacturers and topmakers since December 31, and a sharp decline from March a year ago.

Their holdings on March 26 of shorn domestic wools on greasy basis were down about 14 per cent below December 31, and 24 per cent below March a year ago. Their holdings of foreign apparel wools on a greasy basis were little changed from December 31, but they were down 68 per cent from March, 1937.

There has been some demand in the Boston market quite consistently during April for good French Combing length fine territory wools in original bags. Prices on these wools in the Boston market during April have ranged mostly 63-65 cents, scoured basis, or a shade better than during March. Prices within this range have been inclined to stiffen and recently, buyers have been required to pay mostly around 65 cents, scoured basis, for sizable amounts.

For average wools shrinking 66 per cent, this scoured basis range of prices would mean around 21-22 cents in the grease on the Boston market. Heavier shrinking wools might sell at 1-2 cents less while lighter shrinking wools might bring 1-2 cents more in the grease.

Twelve months' Texas wools also have had some demand for spot holdings. Prices have shown little change from the range of 64-68 cents, scoured basis, that prevailed at the end of March.

Spot California wools in Boston have had little call in the past month. It has been difficult to move the old northern and middle county fine and ½ blood clips remaining in Boston at prices over 57-58 cents, scoured basis, which was lower than most holders were asking. For heavier clips shrinking 63-65 per cent, this would mean around 22-23 cents in the grease, delivered Boston.

The government quotations on graded, territory wools for the week ending May 6 were shown as follows for Boston scoured basis.

Fine Combing (Staple).....	\$ .68- .70
Fine French Combing .....	.64- .66
Fine Clothing .....	.60- .62
½ Blood Combing (Staple).....	.64- .67
½ Blood French Combing.....	.60- .62
½ Blood Clothing .....	.57- .59
¾ Blood Combing .....	.56- .58
¾ Blood Clothing .....	.52- .55
¼ Blood Combing .....	.50- .52
Low ¼ Blood.....	.50- .52
Common and Braid .....	.48- .50
Common and Braid .....	.48- .50

## Rangemen's Field Day, June 9-10 Dubois, Idaho

**W**ESTERN stockmen are invited to spend Thursday and Friday, June 9 and 10, at the Federal Sheep Experiment Station, 8 miles north of Dubois, Idaho. Reports will be made upon a series of range utilization experiments that have been under way for 18 years. The subjects discussed, and demonstrated by the grazing areas, will cover:

Sheep Management on Spring Ranges.

The Effects of Spring and Fall Grazing on Native Vegetation.

The Effect of the Intensity of Stocking Native Range Lambs on Ewe and Lamb Weights.

Reseeding as a Measure of Increasing the Forage Productivity of Abandoned Farm Lands.

Use of Fire for Sagebrush Removal on Sagebrush-Grass Spring-Fall Range Lands.

Opportunity will also be given to study the sheep and wool experimental work being carried on at the Station.

Beds and bedding (not pillows) will be available Wednesday and Thursday nights at the Station. Meals will be provided at a nominal fee. The invitation is extended jointly by the Bureau of Animal Industry, the Intermountain Forest and Range Experiment Station and the Extension Division of the University of Idaho.

## RANGE COMMENTS

Weather and feed on the range since April 1 have been the best in a good many seasons, with plenty of feed and no drying winds (May 2).

Lambing is over here and the lambs have been sold and delivered. The crop this year was 40 per cent more than in 1937 which was the worst in a long time. Conditions were very favorable for lambing and finishing.

1938 fat lambs have sold from \$9.50 down to \$6.50. Feeders sold at about 6 cents. Our death loss this year was very light in comparison to the spring of 1937.

A rate of 12½ cents with board is being paid shearers.

Light-shrinking, good quality wool has brought from 22 to 25 cents.

Not many growers in this locality will avail themselves of the wool loan, due to the small size of their flocks.

Coyotes are less numerous by far this year. This is due to the warm winter, or possibly better trapping.

Our National Wool Grower is fine. Keep up the good work.

W. Gatzmer Wagoner  
Livermore, Calif.

April has been a month of good weather with ample moisture in most cases, and feed prospects are the best seen here in many years.

No sheep have changed hands here lately, and no price has been established. Some yearlings have been offered here at \$6.50 per head out of the shearing pens.

Nothing has been done in regard to the remainder of the 1937 wool clip still in storage here. Some wool of the 1938 clip has been contracted at 20 cents per pound. The wools purchased are estimated to shrink from 60 to 65%.

Most local sheepmen are disappointed with the Commodity Credit Corporation loans on wool. The loans are not high enough, and as they are to be handled through the dealers on a consignment basis, most growers think they will not do as much good as was originally expected.

Lambs are large and strong, and all indications point to a good crop.

Coyotes are still numerous, due largely to the lack of funds to supply government hunters.

Buffalo, Wyo.

R. L. Greene



*Low Stock Country and High Game Area*

# Stockmen Sportsmen *To Cooperate*

*By Dr. A. B. Hatch,*

*Assistant Professor of Game Management,  
University of Idaho, School of Forestry*

**F**EW are the sheepmen who have not heard and worried about the new Federal Aid to Wildlife Restoration Act. Last summer it passed both houses of the National Congress by unanimous votes and the President signed the Act in September. It allots annually some three million dollars of federal excise taxes on guns and ammunition to the forty-eight states for the restoration of native wildlife.

Just how this restoration program will affect the livestock industry is a universal cause for anxiety among stockmen. And these worries are not groundless. Sportsmen in the past have displayed very little judgment, or understanding of wildlife, in their indictment of the livestock industry. Should they now continue along similar lines, but with an annual backing of three million federal dollars and an organized vote of the American Wildlife Federation, which represents some ten million American people—the effect on the livestock industry is not pleasant to contemplate!

But fortunately the breach between sportsmen and stockmen is far more imaginary than real. Actually the two groups have much more in common than either suspects. The real problem today is not whether it will be sheep or wildlife on the national forests, but whether stockmen and sportsmen will get together and work this

problem out to mutual advantage before one or the other of them blows the lid off and starts a real lead-throwing row.

As things stand now, there is a rather vociferous group of sportsmen who imagine that sheep and cows are incompatible with wildlife on the national forests. They see more livestock in



*Going to Uncle Sam's Hay*



these forests in the summer than game and they imagine that game is still being replaced. They do not realize that the day of unregulated grazing is past; that cattle and sheep use the national forests in the summer only and that these forests could support many times the present wildlife numbers in summer without removing a single sheep or cow. Sportsmen as a group do not realize that winter range is the problem of big game, that the national forests contain but 5 per cent of their area suitable for winter game range; that the Forest Service is now reserving almost 100 per cent of this winter range solely for game.

Most important item which sportsmen have overlooked is that stockmen own most of the other 95 per cent of range suitable for game in winter; that for decades about 40 per cent of our big game has been getting a free winter meal-ticket from stockmen!

The truth is that, although stockmen have been hounded from one end of America to the other by wildlife enthusiasts, they have none-the-less been doing far more for game than have their sentimental critics. And if one should get right down to brass tacks, "sportsmen" had as big a hand in the early slaughter of game in the West as did stockmen!

But all this is merely water over the dam. Stockmen have not been gilt-edged saints. They have a goodly share of their own faults to live down. The resentment of wildlife enthusiasts toward them is not all an imaginary dream conjured up for the occasion.

But the most dangerous fault of stockmen today is that so far they have failed to see how serious these misconceptions of the wildlife enthusiast may become unless something is done to counteract them. And by counteracting them I don't mean flying off the handle and starting a rumpus every time some ill-informed sportsmen's organization passes an anti-sheep resolution. Nor do I mean refusal to back up a wildlife restoration program which is definitely beneficial to stockmen, as well as to wildlife, merely because stockmen did not happen to be

called by the state to lend advice in choosing the projects!

Sportsmen and wildlife enthusiasts have now provided every state in the West with an estimated annual fifty to a hundred and fifty thousand dollars for use in wildlife restoration. This money will be used for this purpose whether a particular stockman likes it or not, so the best thing for stockmen to do is to jump into the running and help use these dollars. Stockmen probably know a lot more about where this money can be used to the greatest advantage than some of us.

Nor will this be a particularly obnoxious task. Stockmen no less than millions of other outdoor enthusiasts often reminisce about the good old days of game plenty. They miss even more than do the rest of us the age when anyone could fill his larder with choice venison and prairie chicken a few yards from his back door. The big question to the stockman, as to us, is how to bring some of those old times back again. And stockmen have a lot of first-hand experience with game and game problems which would be valuable to any restoration program.

But in bringing game back, there is one stipulation which the stockmen make which seemingly does not concern many sportsmen. They don't want to ruin the livestock industry. Their livelihood is at stake and so is the very existence of many western towns.

Happily, wildlife can be brought back in sufficient numbers to satisfy the most ardent sportsman without injury to livestock. It is the task of the stockmen to convert the sportsmen to this knowledge by friendly gestures, not by conflict.

And it is my task here to point out how one western state is going about its restoration program; how the livestock industry can help this program; and how beneficial a wildlife restoration program may be to stockmen.

Out in Idaho last month, Bill McIntyre, Idaho State Game Warden, called into his office in Boise a well-informed group of experts on game and land management. They selected three restoration projects for Idaho. The

first, beaver restoration, will do much more than increase this notable and valuable furbearer. Beaver activities in the mountain streams which flow into the sagebrush ranges below will result in the storage and gradual release during the dry summers of thousands of gallons of clear mountain water and the silt-carrying floods of early spring will soon be no more.

The second project was big game restoration. Here the crux of the problem is winter range. On the other hand, the crux of the stockmen's problem is forage on the national forests and public domain. Could a more obvious opportunity for "horse trading" be asked for? But don't forget that horse trading is by tradition difficult even among friends, almost taboo among enemies!

The third project was restoration of sage grouse. Here a real problem seemed to rear an ugly head. Ninety per cent of the nesting areas for sage grouse are owned by stockmen and these nesting areas are the very spots which cattle and sheep use most intensively—sagebrush land within a quarter of a mile of water. Sage grouse can nest nowhere else than near water, and for years the heavy use by stock of the range in close proximity to water has all but eliminated sage grouse from many a semi-desert country.

But obviously stock can no more do without water than can sage grouse. On the surface this looks bad for either one or the other, sage grouse or livestock. Actually it is a boon to both.

There are few stockmen who have not longed to improve that meager and lone water hole over in "Dry Creek" where the stock, parched from the desert heat, wade right in and churn up filth and mud. And many a near-dry creek if provided with a few good cement troughs and several hundred feet of pipe would make a vastly different late summer range out of ranges which now are available only in late spring or early summer!

The Federal Aid to Wildlife Restoration funds will enable these dreams of water improvement to come true and without cost to the stockmen. Indeed, if Mr. Stockman wishes to cul-



tivate the sportsman's antagonism he can even insist that the state pay him for the privilege of developing his water resources!

The plan is to lease, purchase or in most cases take an easement on watering grounds, fence the creeks and water holes so that stock cannot turn them into mud wallows, and then pipe the fresh clear water into troughs outside of the fences.

The benefits to both stock and grouse are several: (1) the vegetation which has long been cropped and trampled from the vicinity of watering grounds will be restored; (2) sage grouse will find ideal nesting cover within the fences and will not be molested during the nesting and fledgling periods; (3) abundant pure water piped to well-constructed troughs outside the fences will be available for stock; (4) finally, after it is once re-established, the luxuriant vegetation within the fenced area may be grazed during late summer and early fall by livestock!

Here is a program which stockmen can join wholeheartedly, there is no conflict and many benefits!

But I hear the question among these doubtful sportsmen: "Won't stockmen hold out for exorbitant terms on these watering areas despite the benefits which they will derive from their development? It is a good question, but one which merely shows how little the sportsman really knows about these fellows who have long been "winter-feeding" deer because they, too, are sentimental about wildlife.

As Merle Drake, president of the Idaho Wool Growers Association, recently remarked: "This can be a big thing to all of us if properly handled. Give the stockmen a representative on the board which selects the areas to be developed and we are a hundred per cent behind you."

Here is the first real opportunity for stockmen to show these sportsmen that not all wildlife enthusiasts belong to sportsmen's clubs and hate the smell of sheep!

## New Moves On Coyotes

WYOMING has started off on the plan of setting up a state-wide committee on predatory animal control. This committee advises with the Biological Survey officials.

It was recommended by the last annual convention of the National Wool Growers Association that "this association urge the formation of advisory committees in each of the western grazing states relative to predatory animal control and to endeavor to coordinate the activities of all agencies which destroy predatory animals, and bring them into more efficient cooperation for securing the best protection for domestic and game animals; and that the membership of these state committees be composed of persons selected by state livestock associations and other interested organizations."

It is expected that generally representative committees will be formed in other states to coordinate and promote predatory animal work.

The Wyoming organization session was held at Cheyenne on April 11 in the office of the U. S. Biological Survey. Robert Grieve, representing the State Farm Bureau, was made president. Kleber Hadsell, representing sheep interests, is vice president. The secretary-treasurer is Nobel Buell of the Survey staff.

The following men participated in the organization of the new committee: Leroy Moore, Ross, Wyoming, vice president of the Wyoming Wool Growers Association; Robert Grieve, Casper, representing Wyoming State Farm Bureau; Reynold Seaverson, Carbon County Wool Growers Association; W. W. Daley, Grazing District No. 3; Kleber H. Hadsell, Grazing District No. 2; Lester Bagley, Cheyenne, State Game Warden; Dr. John W. Scott, Cheyenne, secretary and director Wyoming State Game and Fish Commission; G. W. Kerr, Denver, Biological Survey; Adolph Hamm, E. G. Albert and Nobel Buell of the Biological Survey; Arling Gardner, Deputy Commissioner of Agriculture; A. A. McCutchen, Denver, Forest Service; F. M. Strong, director P. W. A. operations; Captain Plummer, chairman Wyoming Wildlife Associa-

tion; and A. E. Bowman, director of Extension Service, University of Wyoming.

### Idaho

Idaho has a state law that Idaho provides for county tax levies to yield funds for coyote control work. County activities are directed by the State Predatory Animal Board. Heretofore the work has chiefly been done by county units. This caused some difficulty through the fact that some counties grazing large numbers of sheep taxed in other counties did not have as much money as was needed to afford protection for the flocks.

This difficulty is to be overcome by the handling of the work by districts, each of which comprise several counties. Sixteen counties have been formed into four operating districts. These districts have adopted a plan of uniform bounty payments of \$2 on coyotes, cats, and cougars, though five counties are to pay \$5 on cougars.

Bounty payments are to cease on June 30. Pelts are to be presented with feet on. The feet will be removed by officials and the pelt returned to the hunter.

## Meat Poster Contests

BY the end of February, 12,515 high school and college students had entered the 1938 National Meat Poster Contests sponsored by the National Live Stock and Meat Board. The entries come from every state in the Union and in the list, so far, 731 institutions are represented.

These two contests, one open to high school students and the other to students of colleges and universities, are designed to stimulate interest in the subject of meat. The posters are to be judged on the basis of originality, effectiveness, artistic presentation and theme.

The contest for college students closes on March 15 and for the high school group on April 1.

## Labeling Act For Wool and Part Wool Fabrics

THE National Wool Growers Association, along with eleven other national organizations and a number of cloth and garment manufacturers, is actively supporting Senate Bill 3502, and House Bill 9909. These are similar bills introduced in the Senate by Senator Schwartz (Wyoming) and in the House by Congressman Martin (Colorado).

In the Senate, the Schwartz bill is on the calendar and is expected to come to a vote soon. Its calendar number is 1754, and it should be referred to by that number in communications requesting its support by members of the Senate.

Hearings before the House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce were held on May 6. The National Association of Wool Manufacturers is opposing the bill, although some members of that association have testified in favor of its passage.

The statement printed below was recently issued at Washington by the National Wool Growers Association as an aid in securing passage of the bills now pending.

### *The Purpose of the "Truth in Fabric" Bills, S.3502, Introduced by Senator H. H. Schwartz of Wyoming, and H. R. 9909, Introduced by Representative John A. Martin of Colorado*

These two bills would require manufacturers of products sold as wool to label, or otherwise identify to the consumer, exactly the kind of fibers used in manufacturing their products. It would require them to state whether the wool content consists of virgin, or reclaimed wool or shoddy. It would also require them to disclose whether these products contain rayon or cotton or any other fibers which are not wool.

Under present conditions, a very large proportion of materials sold in clothing as being wool or pure wool contain as little as 20 per cent of either virgin or reclaimed wool. The balance of the fiber content is rayon or cotton or a mixture of both of them. At present there is no responsibility on the wool manufacturer to inform the consuming public as to the raw materials which he uses in producing materials which are purchased under the impression that they are pure virgin wool.

### *What Virgin Wool Means and Its Importance to the Welfare and Health of the Nation*

Virgin wool is new wool which has not been previously used for any pur-

pose. It is endowed by nature with thermal qualities which serve as a protection against climatic conditions. It has a tensile strength and resiliency which is possessed by no other fiber, and which is an absolute essential because it permits garments made of virgin wool fabrics which are properly constructed to stretch and contract with movements of the body without losing their shape. This assures satisfactory wear and service.

Under the microscope, a single hair of wool resembles the branch of a tree with overlapping bark scales, similar to the scales of a fish. Inside the wool hair is a honeycomb structure of tiny cells which acts as an insulator against heat and cold and which is moisture absorbent. This outer covering of the wool hair is a protective covering which may be compared to the skin on the human body or the enamel on a tooth. Once the wool fiber is torn open and broken, the inner structure is laid bare with the result that it decays and becomes lifeless, losing its protective qualities, and diminishing greatly or destroying entirely its tensile strength and resiliency.

### *What Reclaimed Wool or Shoddy Means*

Reclaimed wool, or shoddy, as it is also known, comes from two sources: First, from clippings and ends of unused materials which themselves often

contain large percentages of reclaimed wool, rayon or cotton, and from waste accumulated in manufacturing wool products; second, from wornout rags, clothing and other articles made wholly or partly of wool. By far the largest percentage of all shoddy comes from wornout wool products. They represent the ordinary rags collected by the rag man and sold to rag dealers who sort them according to the type of goods, their color and their weight. These rags then go to a shoddy mill where they are put through a tearing and shredding process which reduces them to a fibrous mass. When these rags reach the shoddy mill, the wool in them has already lived its span of life and is practically dead so far as essential basic qualities are concerned. The tearing and shredding which splits and breaks the fibers further accentuates this damage. Stripping the dye from the materials by subjecting them to a sulphuric acid bath leaves a substance which is only wool from a chemical standpoint. Where rayon, cotton or other fibers are present in the worn rags, the wool content is further deteriorated by burning out the foreign fibers by a further acid bath.

Under present conditions, reclaimed wool or shoddy is used indiscriminately in the production of woollen products and is sold without any disclosure of its presence to the consumer. Its use has increased tremendously in the past few years. In 1936, the last year for which figures are available, manufacturers of woollen fabrics used approximately 200,000,000 pounds of virgin wool and approximately 112,000,000 pounds of reclaimed wool or shoddy.

### *Widespread Adulteration of Fabrics Sold as Wool*

Manufacturers of "woolen" materials have not confined themselves to adulterating their product through the increasingly widespread use of shoddy. Each year they use larger quantities of cotton and rayon. In 1936, in addition to utilizing 112,000,000 pounds of reclaimed wool or shoddy, "woolen" manufacturers used 70,000,000 pounds of rayon and 80,000,000 pounds of cotton. The amount of rayon used by woollen manufacturers in 1936 was ap-

(Continued on page 14)

# Around the

# RANGE COUNTRY

## WESTERN TEXAS

A rather severe cold wave occurred early in the month, resulting in some losses among lambs, calves and older cows. The last half of the month was mild and much more favorable. Moderate amounts of moisture came to the northern portion, where in most sections there is enough for existing forage; but southward it continues too dry. Forage is generally considered good at present.

## ARIZONA

Seasonal temperatures prevailed early in the month, followed later by abnormally warm weather. Precipitation has been adequate for spring needs over the northern portion, but rains were light farther south. Irrigated vegetation has made excellent growth, and forage on most ranges is ample. Livestock are in good shape. Rain is needed in the south, and especially the southeast.

## NEW MEXICO

Snow and cold weather during the first ten days or so were unfavorable for livestock, but the much milder weather thereafter was highly favorable for forage and livestock. Ranges are well advanced, and are greening quite generally. Sheep are entering the lambing period in good shape. Cattle are also as a rule in good, strong condition. Rains will very soon be needed to promote the growth of grasses.

### *Aztec* (San Juan County)

We have had ideal spring weather. There has been plenty of moisture and the season is far ahead (April 25) of the last two or three years. Lambing will start in about two weeks and it looks as if we will have a big crop. About the same number of ewes were bred to lamb this spring as a year ago and the death loss during the winter has been less than usual.

Nearly every one is taking advantage of the wool loan through the Commodity Credit Corporation.

Twelve cents a head, without board, is being paid for shearing.

All the permittees on the San Juan National Forest are taxing themselves 5 cents per head on all permitted sheep and using the fund created for cooperative work with the Biological Survey in fighting the coyote. Some good results have been obtained.

W. L. Thurston

## COLORADO

After moderately cold weather early in the month temperatures were well above normal, and very favorable for vegetation growth. Precipitation has been more or less abundant over the northern and especially the northeastern portion, but locally in the southwest, and generally over the southeast more rain is already needed. In fact dust storms are still reported in the southeast. Livestock are in good condition.

### *Garo* (Park County)

There has been a considerable snowfall so far this month (April 25) and grass is starting to show up. We have had more moisture this season than for several years past.

Lambing is just getting under way with the feeding bands about the same size as last year.

There have been no transactions in wool and it looks as if most of the growers will use the C. C. C. loan. Eleven cents with board is the shearing rate.

Coyotes are about as troublesome as ever.

C. F. Vogel

### *Rio Blanco* (Rio Blanco County)

Weather and feed conditions are better than for the past two or three years.

The notes on weather conditions, appearing under the names of the various states in *Around the Range Country*, are furnished by J. Cecil Alter of the U. S. Weather Bureau and based upon reports and publications for the month of April.

The Wool Grower welcomes and desires communications from interested readers in any part of the country for this department of the *Wool Grower* and also invites comment and opinions upon questions relating to the sheep industry and of importance and significance to wool growers.

Lambing has not commenced yet. It is my opinion that not so many ewes were bred to lamb this year as last, but winter losses have been lighter than for some time past.

One extra good clip of wool has been sold at 24 cents a pound. I think it would shrink around 60 per cent. However, from the talk that is going round, I believe most of the wool in this section will be handled under the C. C. C. loan.

The coyote is one of our most difficult problems. It costs us more to feed the coyote than it does to feed our sheep and the present set-up is not getting results. The Biological Survey has too few trappers to do the work. I think the best way to eliminate the coyote is to set up a bounty system over all the western states.

Edgar C. Jones

## UTAH

While there were a few moderately cold spells, the month averaged abnormally warm, and precipitation was nearly normal, coming at timely intervals. Native grasses, meadows and other forage is somewhat earlier than usual, with the result that most livestock are in good condition and doing well. Some shearing delays were reported, but there were no bad consequences generally. Most livestock were turned onto the range early in the month.

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## Labeling Act for Wool

(Continued from page 12)

proximately six times greater than the quantity used in 1935. The manufacturer of these mixed textile products at times may verbally inform the jobber or the converter that the material is a manipulated fabric but this information is not conveyed either to the retail merchant or to the consuming public. Mr. Arthur Besse, President of the National Association of Wool Manufacturers, stated the situation succinctly in his testimony on March 31, 1938, before the Senate subcommittee considering S. 3502, when he said in part: "We are in favor of fiber identification. We believe that the consumer has a right to know what he or she is buying. We have ourselves supported labeling regulations, knowing that there was a very substantial amount of misrepresentation in the sale of so-called wool products which contain varying amounts of wool. We do not believe that mills are responsible for that misrepresentation; but in the absence of labeling regulations it is impossible to fix the responsibility, and for that reason we welcome labeling regulations of the right sort, so that there may be no opportunity for anyone who wants to misrepresent, be it a textile mill or anything else, to take advantage of any technicality or loopholes or any lack of diligence in telling the consumer exactly what he may be buying."

### **Why Present Conditions Must be Remedied on Behalf of Consumers, Agriculture and Legitimate Industry**

Virgin wool is a necessity for the health and well-being of 95 per cent of the people of this country almost from the moment of their birth until their death for approximately ten months of every year. It is a natural animal fiber with protective qualities possessed by no other vegetable or synthetic fiber and which cannot be imitated. It is a basic peace-time necessity and an absolute essential in time of war.

The wool growing industry is one of the prime agricultural industries of the country. It is a very large source of

income to farmers, not only in wool but in meat products. It is a partial means of livelihood for more than 500,000 farmers and is practically the sole means of livelihood for 96,000 sheep raisers. Even at the present low prices, the value of the wool clip of this country, is estimated at between \$250,000,000 to \$275,000,000. Due to the subnormal consumption of virgin wool largely because of the increasing adulteration of fabrics sold to the consuming public as being wool, farmers engaged in raising sheep have been obliged to obtain a loan of \$50,000,000 from the Government Commodity Credit Corporation to aid them in carrying their wool clip until there is an improvement in existing ruinous prices.

The American woolen manufacturer is the sole customer of the American wool grower. The increasing adulteration of fabrics sold to the consumer as being wool is destroying the only market which the American wool grower has. It permits manufacturers to use an inferior cheap substitute for virgin wool, without any responsibility to the consuming public, to depress the price of virgin wool. It results in the sale of fabrics and of clothing to the consumer which will not protect him adequately against climatic conditions and which give poor wear and service. It creates a destructive price competition which is ruinous to the legitimate wool manufacturer who uses virgin wool in his product.

*We suggest, if you believe the passage of S. 3502 and H. R. 9909 are in the public's interest, that you telegraph or write the Senators and Representatives from your state urging their active interest in obtaining the enactment of this legislation during the present session of Congress.*

The following organizations have testified in support of these bills:

**General Federation of Women's Clubs.**

**New York City Federation of Women's Clubs.**

**Chicago and Cook County Federation of Women's Organizations.**

**Women's Auxiliary, National Federation of Postoffice Clerks.**

**Union Label Trade Department, American Federation of Labor.**

**United Textile Workers of America.**

**National Farmers' Union.**

**American Farm Bureau Federation.**

**National Grange.**

**National Cooperative Council.**

**National Wool Growers Association and 12 State Wool Growers Associations.**

*The bills also endorsed and supported by outstanding woolen manufacturers, manufacturers of men and women's garments, retailing merchants, and publications interested in protecting consumer interests, including Ladies Home Journal, Woman's Home Companion, McCall's, Vogue, Harpers' Bazaar and others.*

## Our Candid Critics

ONE of our "dear readers" in Montana took full and proper advantage of our standing invitation for criticism of the makeup and contents of the Wool Grower. Here is the substance of his comment on the February issue.

Regarding the association's Platform and Program adopted by the convention,

"The most selfish and narrow-minded group of articles I ever saw in print. Everybody in the world seemed to be wrong except the sheepman. I haven't found anything that hurt the stockmen much, and I'm sure that Secretary Hull will not make any bad change in the wool tariff."

Is our friend's judgment influenced by politics, or does he understand the pending trade agreements with Great Britain and Canada?

"I see the wages and hours bill is not wanted. Well, I sure want it. 15,000,000 men are out of work. Private industries are going to have to take them through a six-hour day law, or we are going to have to make more W. P. A. jobs and pay more taxes which the sheepmen think are too high now.

"The best thing in the paper was Mr. Connor's talk. He knows a man can't buy meat on \$8 to \$10 a week. He wants to cooperate with the hog, cattle and sheep man. Most of the improvement in lamb and wool consumption has come from outside sheepmen."

It looks as though after all Mr. Alexander was criticising the convention and sheepmen rather than the Wool Grower.



## Tariff Session In San Francisco

**B**USINESS interests of seaport towns generally are in favor of low tariffs. Their commerce depends largely upon exports and imports. As Dr. Henry F. Grady recently said in San Francisco, "You cannot have ships running if there is no cargo for them to carry."

The occasion was a meeting held under the auspices of the Foreign Trade Association of the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce held on May 6. The meeting did not run so smoothly as is common under such auspices. Dr. Grady holds the position of vice chairman of the United States Tariff Commission, and chairman of the Committee for Reciprocity Information. He recently presided over the hearings held in connection with the proposed trade agreements with the United Kingdom and with Canada. Among the interesting and enlightening statements made by Dr. Grady on this occasion were assertion that "to hold public negotiations on the agreements would be to make a circus of the efforts of the officials now in charge of such negotiations." at a later point, he informed the audience that "the tariff is too complex and technical for Congress to handle. It would be fairer to seek repeal of the Reciprocal Trade Agreement Act, than attempt to require congressional ratification of agreements when negotiated."

The latter statement is of considerable interest in view of the feeling developing in Washington that the Reciprocal Trade Agreement Act should be repealed.

At another point, Dr. Grady objected to interrogators' remarks regarding free trade. "This program," he said, "is based on adequate protection."

The suggestion that all tariff rates that have been lowered through reciprocal trade agreements still provide adequate protection for American producers is surprising.

The meeting was far from a one-sided affair. Vigorous opposition to the trade agreement plan and policy was expressed chiefly by representatives of the Farmers' Union, poultry producers, woolgrowers, milk producers and cattle

raisers. Questions put to Dr. Grady by Honorable Fred A. Ellenwood were:

"(1) Why do you not give Americans a chance to be heard on reciprocity agreements after they are ready for approval, instead of the loose, general discussions now held before negotiations with the foreign representatives are officially opened?"

(2) Why do you shut out such pertinent questions as raised by your regulations which state: 'There is little point in making general objection to the purpose or to the negotiation of any agreement whatsoever with a country under consideration for the simple reason that such matters are not relevant'.

(3) When you do secure the approval of these negotiated agreements by President Roosevelt, how long must they continue? Can Congress cancel or change them? Does Congress have any voice in what they contain?"

The reports reaching the woolgrowers do not indicate the extent to which Dr. Grady attempted direct reply to the queries of Mr. Ellenwood and others.

At another point, Dr. Grady said that a trade agreement plan is based on the principle that more business is better than less business. Objection was taken to this idea by the secretary of the California Farm Bureau Federation who said, "International trade is very likely to have a price-leveling influence, reducing prices of American goods to war level prices. The market we cherish and the one in which more business is always welcome is our domestic trade. The farmers of California are willing to pay a price for things that they buy high enough to insure that such products will be manufactured by American workmen in American plants."

On the whole, the meeting seems to have brought home to West Coast producers the idea that the present tariff policy of the administration is not working well for American farmers and other producers. That there should have been such a spirited opposition to a high spokesman for the administration is but another indication of the

growing antagonism to the present policy of whittling away our protective duties.

## Meat Lockers

**I** READ with interest the copy of the National Wool Grower which arrives each month.

I was especially interested in the article appearing in the March issue on refrigeration plants of the unit or locker type. I feel that these plants will be a very great factor in promoting greater consumption, and I hope the Federal Government sees fit to loan some of that one billion five hundred million dollars to cooperatives or individuals who will use it to promote the spread of refrigeration.

When these plants are more general, especially in the smaller cities and towns, and owners cooperate with packers and retailers to encourage larger purchases of meats, and the packers and retailers make it a point to meet this demand by cutting the price for larger purchases and preparing crates of assorted cuts, etc., (crates made to fit properly the compartments in the lockers), we will then have greater consumption.

When prices are such that people who are not buying meats now can buy, and those who do buy can buy more, we will have our problem solved.

Cuts in prices must come from handling after leaving the producer, and it seems the only way to get this cut is by handling in larger quantities and shifting the cost of storage to the consumer who can afford this cost when he considers the cheaper meats and the many other benefits he will have from his cold storage locker in the way of fresh vegetables and fruits put away when prices are low.

I cannot think of anything a small community could do with an R. F. C. loan that would benefit them more than a refrigeration plant, or to use any surplus fund they might otherwise have to encourage an individual to put one in their town. Do you?

Agnes Allen

Strool, South Dakota

# The Public Grazing Lands

By L. A. Stoddart

Professor of Range Management, Utah State Agricultural College

THE western half of the United States has certain grazing problems which are peculiar to it alone. They differ from the problems of the eastern states and from those of most other countries because they deal with arid lands—lands having precipitation below fifteen inches per year—and shallow unstable soils.

Over the past 30 years there has grown a technical science which deals with these problems, the science of range management. Now, hundreds of technically trained men devote their lives to solving the complex problems of this range area. Some six western colleges add each year over one hundred trained range specialists to this already large group.

There are in the Western States at least a dozen federal experiment stations devoting time to scientifically controlled research in range management. These stations are pledged to give to the public facts concerning the effect of grazing upon range plants and the effect of various systems of grazing upon range livestock. They are supported either directly or indirectly by the range users, and their successful continuance depends upon the good will of the general public—the range users. This they hope to get by honest, fair, and productive work that gives results.

## The Green Book

In 1936 the U. S. Forest Service published a booklet entitled "The Western Range" and popularly known as "the green book." This book, compiled by a large number of technical men working for the Forest Service, contains a great deal of valuable information which has resulted from research work on the range. Unfortunately, perhaps, it also contains a good deal of speculation regarding what used to be and what may come to be. It does, however, present the honest opinion of many experienced and professionally outstanding men concerning the problems of the

western range.

Stockmen have seriously criticized this booklet on many occasions—much of which appears justified and much of which seems to come from a lack of understanding. This criticism has been voiced in an article entitled "High Pastures," by Neil Clark, printed in the Country Gentleman and again by the American National Livestock Association in a publication entitled "If and When it Rains."

The writer, being neither a federal administrator nor a stockman, but, rather, a very much interested onlooker would like to point out a few things about the western range that it is sincerely hoped may lead to a better understanding between the stockman and the technical range man, who, incidentally, both work toward the same goal—better ranges that produce more stock.

Following are a few points upon which there should be no question in the mind of any clear thinker, be he stockman or technical range man: (1) The stockman lives on the range and obtains his livelihood therefrom. Obviously, then, he is not the willful destroyer of the range, upon which the maintenance of his business and investments depends. (2) The technical range man has nothing to gain by circulating false information about range conditions. He gives his honest opinion based upon research and years of careful observation—not on one ranch, but throughout a state or even several states. (3) Rain makes good forage. Ranges never look very good during drought years, yet even misused ranges may look good during wet years. (4) Since western ranges have a low average rainfall, they cannot be expected to produce as much grass and stock as can ranges in wet climates. Much of the West is and always has been desert. (5) Grass binds the soil and thus controls erosion. Overuse of a range may, then, cause increased erosion. Not all erosion, nor even all that on range lands, is caused by overgrazing. Some

normal erosion is always present on any land. (6) The government did not act wisely in its administration of western lands, and much of the present deterioration is due to inadequate homestead laws and lack of supervision of the public domain many years ago. The fault lies just as much with the government as with the people who used this land.

The above are simple facts disputed by no one, yet they are basic facts concerned in solving range problems in the West. In the following discussion it is assumed that the reader accepts these statements as fact.

## Range Depletion

The range research men have given specific figures on percentage of depletion based upon the present plant cover of cemeteries, railroad right-of-ways, and protected fence corners. Stockmen take exception to these figures, and perhaps rightly, because they are based upon the assumption that these areas are still in a natural condition—a disputable point. It is obviously an economic absurdity to keep a range in an unused condition, hence, it appears that claims of range depletion should not be based upon dis-use as an ideal. What, then, is the true picture of range depletion?

The natural vegetation which originally covered the western range varied in both plant species and plant density, depending, in the main, upon local soil and rainfall conditions. The mid-western plains supported grass, short species in the dry western half and tall species in the wetter eastern half. The Rocky mountains supported evergreen trees and wet meadows. The Intermountain area supported bunchgrass in the wetter northern areas and desert shrubs in the central and southern parts. Thousands of plant species grew on these ranges. (There are over 1,100 kinds of grass, besides many weeds and shrubs). Some were good forage, while some were poor. Grazing by big game



Figure 1

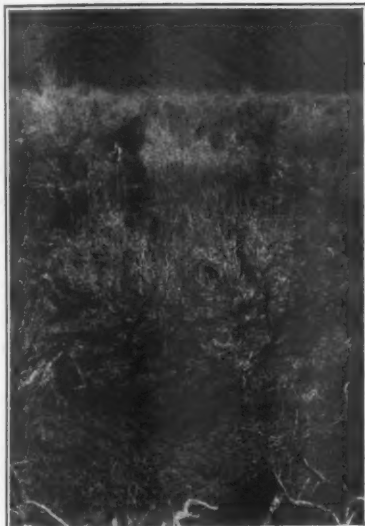


Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4

*Intensive grazing has a profound effect upon native vegetation. Near Logan, Utah, is a range which is grazed heavily by sheep in the spring and fall. A long arm of this range extends between two cultivated fields, and this arm is grazed only rarely as few sheep work into it from the main range unit.*

*The above illustrations show the change in the vegetation due to increasingly heavy grazing as one progresses from the seldom grazed tip of this arm to the heavily grazed main range unit where sheep are frequently bedded.*

*Figure 1, the tip of the arm, shows that this area is normally pure grass. Figure 2 shows that light grazing increases the sagebrush but does not injure the grass greatly. Figure 3 shows that with heavy grazing the grass is removed and the sagebrush thrives. Figure 4 shows that with extreme grazing, usually only around trails and bedgrounds, even the sagebrush is killed out. These photographs were all taken within a distance of one-fourth mile. No fence, change in topography, nor change in soil separates the four conditions.*

and rodents doubtless was universal, and evidence points to the fact that it amounted to virtual devastation in some areas. This, together with the occurrence of drought years, and soils perpetually sterile because of alkalinity or shallowness, made local areas bare "dust bowls" before they had even been viewed by the white man.

Range investigators must take into account the fact that even under proper grazing there are, in any arid region, years when large areas are dry and dusty with but little forage available during the hot summer months. Such areas were frequently described by early explorers before stock grazed the ranges, and there is every reason to

believe that at least some of these observations were true. It should, however, be realized that many of these early explorers were neither botanists nor stockmen and that many came from humid coastal areas into a parched desert. Naturally under these circumstances even a good dry-land range might be reported as parched and barren.

Most of the range lands originally, however, were of such excellence as to call forth from their first witnesses exclamations such as, "I believe that all the flocks and herds in the world could find ample pasturage" and "tremendous areas of luxuriant grass"—an "inexhaustible supply."

Research has conclusively demonstrated that most of the West produced materially more and better forage in its original state than it now does. This is true of both wet and dry periods.

Then came the livestock man.

There can be little doubt that early producers, both cattlemen and sheepmen, overused these ranges, principally for two reasons: a desire to get as much use as possible of a "free range" before someone else arrived, and a lack of understanding of the necessarily limited production possible on arid lands. Without water, plant regrowth following grazing is slow, and early settlers, accustomed to pastures having plenty of precipitation, did not realize this



vital fact. It was at this early period that most of the range damage was done. It is true, as stockmen contend, that some ranges now support as much stock as they did in early days but most stockmen are free to admit that much of the West supports fewer animals than it did 50 to 75 years ago. Within the past 30 years little or no capacity decrease has resulted on many ranges. Practically all the denials of range depletion come from stockmen comparing today's range with the equally depleted range of 30 years ago—not with the range of 50 to 75 years ago.

Other factors have and still are adding to range depletion some of which may be briefly enumerated as follows: (1) Improper seasonal use has done tremendous damage to both mountain and desert ranges. This is attributable, often, to a definite shortage of range grazable during some specific season rather than to ignorance of the damage being done. Lack of foresight in developing supplemental feed for use during periods of range shortage has added to this problem. (2) Stocking ranges to their capacity during normal or above normal precipitation periods often results in serious overstocking during subnormal periods. It is during these drought years that range plants have their most difficult time because of lack of moisture and the added burden of too heavy grazing often is fatal. (3) Improper herding and trailing, especially in early times when innumerable animals were driven in close formation over hundreds of miles to market, have contributed greatly to local devastation. (4) Many of the early western ranchers were old-world gentlemen who had not the faintest conception of how to operate range lands, and thus, much damage came about through sheer ignorance on the part of the operator. It was years before the proper methods of producing stock on arid ranges were discovered, mainly through a process of trial and error, which resulted in the elimination of the poor rancher and the permanent establishment of the good rancher.

#### Plant Cover

Following this period of mis-use came a period of change in the plant

cover of the range which is only now becoming evident. The following, briefly, is what happened. Stock naturally eat first the plants they like best—which, incidentally, are, almost without exception, the most nutritious. A plant manufactures most of its food from the air by the use of green leaves, and, hence, when these leaves are constantly removed by grazing animals the plant literally starves. This starvation stunts the plant, and both its roots and its tops are small. The root, being much less deep and less spreading (often only 1/10 of a normal root) makes the plant more susceptible to injury by drought, since it cannot reach the deeper soil moisture. Hence, the widespread death of the better range plants during the recent drought period is readily understandable. Normal plants were ordinarily not severely or permanently injured.

Since it is the more palatable plants that are thus stunted and often killed, the less palatable and less nutritious plants are able to increase, just as a garden plant increases its thriftiness when competing weeds are removed. Chemical analyses have definitely shown that these less palatable range plants contain less food value than the original plants which they replaced.

Another vital difference between the original plants and the plants which are now taking over the range is that the original were long-lived or perennial plants, almost without exception, whereas a large percentage of the new plants are annuals, many of which are green only for about six weeks in the early spring. While stock eat many of these annuals, they are, at best, of value only for a short time and, more serious, they are not dependable. In dry years their seed may never germinate, whereas perennial plants already have their roots deep into the soil and can, even in the most severe drought years, make some growth.

Almost always accompanying a depletion of the plant cover is a depletion of the soil. Soil erosion is at a minimum under natural vegetation, and, as this vegetation is replaced by poorer and generally shorter-lived plants, erosion increases, attaining its maximum rate on a soil which has become entirely devoid of vegetation. As the fer-

tility of the soil is lost by erosion the area frequently becomes unable to support the original plant cover, and may become permanently bare or, at least, greatly less productive.

It is this erosion that makes depletion of a range so very serious since, were it not for erosion, it would be relatively easy to remedy the mis-use and return most of the range to its original plant cover.

#### Summary

In summarizing present range condition, it is safe to say that some depletion is present on much of the western range—just how much will never be known. It is also certain that on some areas mis-use is unknown and production is as high as it has ever been—this just as certain as is the fact that on other areas mis-use is so severe as to bring about virtual ruin. Conservative range utilization is what both technical men and stockmen want.

Stockmen, here is a plea to you. Don't regard the range management "expert" as your foe. He is doing his best and can do better if you will help him. Your problems are his problems, and he works toward an honest solution of these problems, a solution that will make the livestock business a self-sustaining and paying business.

### Senator Larson is New President in Montana

Peter Pauly, the well-known sheep breeder of Deer Lodge, Montana, recently resigned from the presidency of the Montana Wool Growers Association. He was elected to that position last January after serving several years as vice president. Mr. and Mrs. Pauly expect to travel during most of the balance of this year.

Senator T. O. Larson of Choteau, formerly vice president, succeeds Mr. Pauly in the office of president. Mr. Knute O. Haugan, Fishtail, president of the Stillwater Wool Growers Association, becomes vice president. Under the by-laws of the Montana Association, succession to the office of vice president goes to the president of a local association who has had the longest term in office.





# Mr. Ram Buyer

YOU'LL NEED NEW RAMS THIS FALL!

Flock Improvement Cannot Safely Be Suspended!  
The Top End of the 1938 Rams Will Be Sold at Auction

## AUGUST 23-24, 1938

In The

### 23rd Annual National Ram Sale

### SALT LAKE UNION STOCK YARDS

NORTH SALT LAKE

Under Management of the National Wool Growers Association

Mr. Ram Breeder:

It's time to advertise your sale entries, and it is past time to advertise the rams you must sell at home. If selling is going to be a little sticky this fall, it is good business to go out now and get the attention of the men who buy the best rams. Buyers are already considering whose rams they will buy this year.

Copy for June advertisements should reach the Wool Grower not later than June 1.

**HERE ARE THE RATES PER INSERTION:**

Full Page .....	\$75.00	Half Page .....	40.00
One Third Page—1 column.....	26.50	Quarter Page .....	20.00
Per Column Inch .....	3.00		

*The Cheapest Sheep Advertising in America*

## What of the 1938 Lamb Market?

**L**AMB supplies and prices again are of interest to rangemen with the coming of May. In most sections, the new crops of lambs are well started for the summer and fall markets. They have most of their growth to make yet, but the completion of lambing and the coming of the spring feed naturally turn the owners' minds to consideration of market prices to be obtained for the crop that all too soon will be up to shipping time.

Wool prices have the appearance of being quite well set for some months. Buyers have been going above the government loan figures of late, but until improvement in general business can step up consumer buying, there is not a good basis for a real advance in wool prices. The difference between wool prices in 1938 and 1937 is about equal to the amount of profit on last year's operations. This brings the grower to wondering whether the sale of his lambs also will report a loss, or whether there may be a bare chance of outfits' breaking even in 1938. There is no material lowering in the cost of 1938 wool or lambs.

Just now, it looks as though lambs, as well as wool, will be lower this year. In fact, the government predictors have already said that "prices of new crop lambs in May and June probably will continue considerably lower than those of a year ago."

We should all be thankful for those encouraging, tantalizing words "probably" and "likely" and "may be expected" that appear so generously in the price forecasts manufactured in Washington, D. C. They at least remind us that the forecasters are not dead sure and that they realize that later events may discredit their premonitions.

Of course, we are in a depression. Lamb prices have not yet gone so low as in the other depression just previous. Neither have wool prices. There seems to be a sporting chance for the producers of lambs and wool to weather

this depression without being carried down so low as they went in 1932 and 1933. But suffice it now to make comparisons with last year.

### Arizona and California Spring Lambs

Arizona spring lambs were at \$9.30 at Kansas City on April 16, but down to \$8.85 a week later, which was \$3.90 less than a year ago. At San Francisco, one year ago, good spring lambs were selling at \$10.50 against \$7 during the week ending April 29 this year. And there is something new in the lamb business in California this year. Chicago and Iowa packers are contracting but very lightly. The usual excess of spring supply over what is taken for home slaughter is having to go to Ogden, Denver and markets farther east on consignment by owners or by speculators who are stepping in during the absence of contracting by outside interests. Whether the larger operators will adhere throughout the season to the policy of buying only at the markets remains to be seen. It is at least a strange occurrence that some six or seven firms that usually contract California lambs for future delivery have simultaneously reversed their policies.

Shipments from California were later than usual in starting until the last week of April. At that time, the season's movement via northern and eastern railroads stood at 72,000 head, compared to 50,000 at the same time in 1937. Last year's spring shipments totalled 348,000, and in 1936, 504,100 head.

### The 1938 Supply

The government's estimated inventory for January 1 showed 46,797,000 stock sheep on hand, which was 99.5 per cent of the numbers estimated for 1937. Conditions for fall breeding and spring lambing were somewhat more favorable than for the 1937 crop, and some increase in the number of lambs may be looked for.

The "early" lamb crop usually makes up about 22 per cent of the total pro-

duction. It consists of lambs that are ready for market by August 1. This early crop is reported as 15 per cent larger in 1938 than in 1937, but it must be remembered that last year's early production was much less than in former years. On the whole, this year's production and slaughter of lambs is likely to be above that of last year. Last year's slaughter of sheep and lambs was the lowest since 1930 with the exception of 1934.

All of which brings up the question of the correctness of the government estimate of the number of lambs on feed on January 1, 1938. At that time, it was reported that 6,066,000 lambs were on feed, which was 11 per cent more than one year earlier. The supply of feedlot lambs is practically exhausted by May 1. The actual kill, under federal inspection up to April 30, was not 11 per cent over last year, but 4 per cent, showing that the estimate of the number of feed at the beginning of this year was somewhat in error.

There is no apparent reason for expecting the lamb supply of 1938 to vary from that of 1937 in numbers, or in the times of marketing sufficiently to materially change on foot or carcass prices. But what actually might happen prices is another story. Strength of consumer demand has to be reckoned with.

### The Dressed Trade

New York monthly prices on the good grade of medium weight carcasses varied from \$21.55 in May to \$17.60 in December, which is quite a respectable degree of the much talked-of stability. But in 1938, the story has not been so good. In January the same carcasses prices (at New York) were two cents lower than in December. In February the drop was almost as great, reaching 14 cents. But in March it recovered to 17 cents. In April, 1937, the price, on same basis, was \$19.50, for carcasses of fed lambs. Of course, this use of average monthly prices conceals some spots that were actually lower, as well as some higher ones. But they do reveal the general level and

trend of dressed lamb prices. At April 23, New York carcass prices were \$2 lower than on April 16, but there was some improvement by May 1.

The spring lamb carcass trade at New York at the opening of May was on a basis of \$2.50 below May 1937. The big question is,—What will that market do during the balance of May and June? The large, early lamb crop makes it look as though even the lower prices may not be mentioned. This year's lighter run of Texas carryovers should leave the market more largely to genuine spring lambs, and so remove from the markets the unusual load of carried over lambs that it had to digest one year ago.

**Pelt Values**

While the prospects are not so bright when considered from the meat angle, attention to wool and pelt values does not brighten the picture. Pelt credits are only slightly more than half of what they were one year ago, although wool prices have not fallen as much as 50 per cent. Slats and other by-products have declined more seriously as a result of very slow business in articles in which skins, casings, etc., are used.

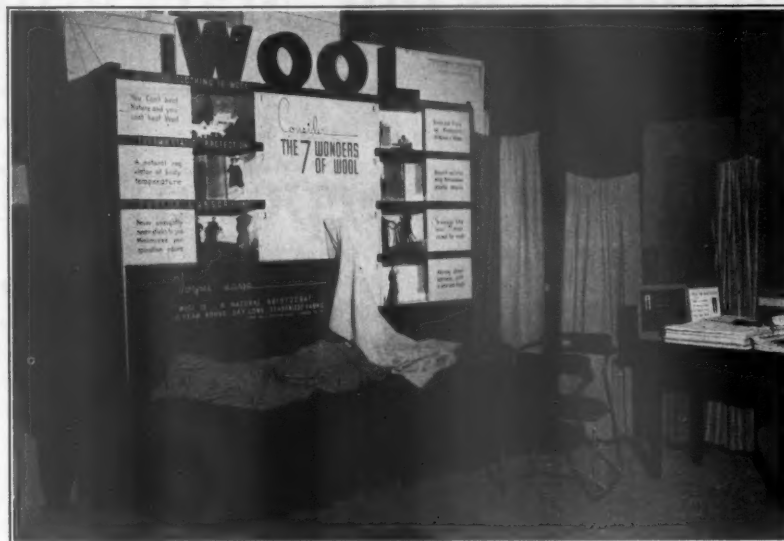
An advance in wool would help lamb values, but the whole wool situation is tied into the general business, but definite predictions as to changes in price levels still are reserved except for very venturesome or optimistic persons.

The extent to which prices on spring lambs are below one year ago appears to be caused in about equal parts by the change in meat and pelt values. There is some chance for recovery in both sections, but a marked advance in either cannot be counted upon.

With the assured good quality of the new crop and the improbability of an excess supply, it is not unreasonable to hope for continuation through the season of at least starting-out prices, and to hope to avoid the "seasonal decline" that wrought such havoc in June of last year.

Wool absorbs moisture without feeling clammy. According to scientific tests, wool above all other fibers minimizes and prevents "B.O."


**AN A. W. I. DISPLAY**



A section of the booth of Associated Wool Industries at the Women's National Exposition of Arts and Industries, held at Grand Central Palace, New York City, March 28th to April 2nd inclusive. Thousands of consumers who visited this section evinced interest in the showing of Spring wools shown. These included an undyed wool and llama mixture of open weave; a peachstone shade of mixed fabric of fine blend, another off-tone blue fabric of camel hair, kid mohair and wool; pastel shades of dress weight wool and rabbit hair mixture; a fine all-wool soft tweed in beautiful multi-colored combinations, and a novelty striped wool fabric in three-toned lacy weave.

The background of the booth was an itinerant display titled "The Seven Wonders of Wool," designed for department store use, and hand-made rugs of wool yarn were used in the booth.

A pictorial card giving historical data and current statistics on the American Wool Textile Industry was shown in the front of the booth.



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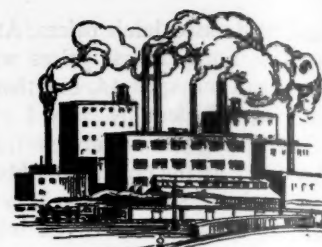
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# National Wool Marketing



## Corporation News Bulletin

*Grower Owned and Operated*

### The Wool Market

**F**EW will disagree that April saw a better turn in the wool market, both at Boston and in the West. It is true that the turn was not reflected in sharply higher prices, accordingly it was largely psychological, but there was some improvement with prices tending towards the high side of quotations rather than the low. There was a more optimistic feeling throughout the trade and undoubtedly more wool actually changed hands.

Unquestionably it was the best month, so far as volume of sales is concerned, in the last six. Worsted manufacturers as well as top makers were in the market, buying here and there to cover old orders and some new business, both in cloth and in tops. In line with their activity, prices naturally stiffened and with the stiffening came a switch to a certain extent in the filling of orders. Rather than concentrating their buying at one point, which would have the effect of boosting prices, mills bought some on the market and the balance from buyers operating in the West.

The result of their tactics undoubtedly acted to hold down prices for they could find buyers who had bought wools in the West and were willing to turn these wools at slight margins, which had the effect of holding down their costs, especially since earlier bought Western wools were visibly under the Boston market. As this buying increased in the West, naturally prices advanced there, and as this is written, Western and Boston markets are closer together than they were thirty days ago. Undoubtedly much of the buying done is in anticipation of future needs and it has led to some contracting of wool still on the sheeps' back.

### Territory Wool Market

As this is written, the first of May, graded French combing wool at Boston is selling from 64 to 66c clean, which on a 64% shrinkage means a Boston grease value of 23 to 24c. Fine graded clothing wool brought 60 to 62c clean. Figuring that on a 65% shrink, it means a Boston grease value of 21 to 22c. In the original-bag lots they bought wool, bulk good fine French combing length at 65 to 65c clean. Figuring it again on a 64% shrinkage, that means around 23½c in the grease at Boston. Short French combing fine wool sold from 62 to 63c clean. For choice

original bag wools which would run strongly to staple combing length, graded fine, the market was 66 to 68c clean, or 24 to 25c in the grease if you figure the shrinkage at 64%.

The demand for medium territory wools is very narrow but should change in view of the improvement in the demand for fleeces. A popular demand in the fleece wool section continues to be for quarter bloods. Spot graded bright quarter blood fleeces of the 1937 clip have sold from 26 to 27c in the grease. New clip bright quarter blood fleeces, country grading, are bringing 25 to 26c delivered East. Some new three-eighths blood 26 to 27c. There has been a little graded bright half blood selling at 27 to 28c.

### Signs of Improvement

In looking at the market as a whole, it is possible to discern signs of improvement. The outlook is encouraging. There are many reasons to believe that we have seen the low point in the wool market and right here let us say that the situation is such that it is hard to imagine any sharp advance in the market in the immediate future.

The policies of the administration towards improving domestic conditions while they are still largely on paper and there are still skeptics, give promise of assistance. We are thinking of the probable repeal of certain depressive tax measures, the inflationary atmosphere created by the sterilization of gold, the R.F.C. loans to large and small businesses, increased expenditures for relief, all of which should do much to permit the recovery of business in general. It is fundamentally necessary if our wool market is to improve.

### Foreign Situation

It has been especially comforting to follow the foreign wool markets, which failed to reveal any weakening tendency. In fact, sales reported around the first of the month were practically 5% higher, which means that foreign importing parity is still 12c and better above the domestic wool market. Furthermore, in the last month we have seen the signing of the Anglo-Italian Trade Pact, which may be followed by loans to Italy, and Italy needs wool. A better feeling abroad might bring Germany more into the market.

Reports have it that the Argentine Government has authorized local banks to extend liberal credit to Japan so that she might purchase wool in that country. All of this is bullish news.

In the wool trade the topmakers business is better. There is more speculative buying. The piece goods market is picking up. There are more buyers, more orders being written, and there is a talk of withdrawing lines and replacing them on a higher basis because lines of cloth at prevailing prices in most cases is selling at a loss. Woolen mills have announced reductions in salaries in an attempt to recoup their losses, having found that they could not effect a cut in raw wool costs. Whether this will be followed by labor disturbances remains to be seen. Accordingly we say it is most comforting to see this ray of sunshine, at last entering our wool market.

### *Feel Now is Not Time to Sell*

With wool at its present level, the National feels very definitely that now is not the time to sell. Only twice within the last twenty years has the price of wool been as low as it is today. Wool values in the country on the average are only 1 to 3c above the C.C.C. Loan value. It has not limited the price, but has merely put a bottom to the market. Under these conditions we feel that the wise grower will test the market out, taking the C.C.C. Non-Recourse Loan, which still entitles him to retain his beneficial interest in the wool. If the wool crop can be fed to the market in an orderly manner and business conditions improve, the grower can expect at least the cost of production out of his wool, which he is not receiving at prevailing country prices. Supplies are not heavy.

A report on wools for the first quarter, released the middle of April, showed that while there was more wool in the country than there was in 1936 and 1937, yet there was less than the average of the preceding five years, and actually until wool prices approach foreign importing parity there is less wool available in this country than there was either in 1937 or 1936, wool imports continuing at the lowest point in years.

Accordingly the National advises growers to consign their wool, taking part in an orderly marketing program in the belief that business conditions will improve before the end of the year and price levels of wool will be measurably higher. That many growers feel the same way is revealed in the volume of consigned wool which on the 1st of May reflected approximately a 300% increase over the 1st of May in 1937.

## Should Government Fix Wool Prices?

THE March issue of the Pastoral Review, chief organ of the grazing industry of Australia and New Zealand, contains a very sound treatment of the

question of fixing prices for wool.

Recently some sections of the wool growing industry of Australia have advocated fixing a minimum price for wool as a means of combating the serious slump in the wool market, and while the subject is discussed principally from the point of view of the Aus-

## Warehouses of National Wool Marketing Approved by C.C.C.

Approval of warehouses of the Central Wool Warehouse Corporation, a subsidiary of the National Wool Marketing Corporation, was granted at a recent meeting of the Board of Directors of the Commodity Credit Corporation. Their approval of these warehouses was the first to be granted to any warehouses under the Commodity Credit Corporation Wool Loan.

This warehouse system is operating at Boston, where all the territory wools are stored that are consigned by member agencies of the National, at Kansas City, and at Denver. Approval of the Central accordingly makes it possible for every grower in the territory states to ship his wool today through a member agency of the National, and know that it will be warehoused in an approved warehouse, appraised almost as soon as it is received, and the amount due him under the Wool Loan Plan made available shortly thereafter.

### *C.C.C. Appraisals Under Way—Checks Mailed*

With the approval of the warehouses of the National Wool Marketing Corporation, the Commodity Credit Corporation immediately assigned appraisers to these warehouses to inspect and appraise the incoming wools. As a result, owners of the 1938 clip who have consigned their wools to member agencies of the National are already receiving their checks, providing the National in turn has received the wool. Actually the first checks were in the mail within forty-eight hours after the wool was inspected, which was a very definite answer to skeptics who had thought there would be so much red tape involved in the C.C.C. Loan that it would be months before growers would actually receive their money.

Of course these growers had already received their flat field advance at the time the wool was shipped, so this second payment represents the full Commodity Credit Corporation Loan, less the actual transportation and in the case of the wools sorted in Boston a  $\frac{3}{4}$ c assembling charge, the latter being credited against the commission to be charged to the grower so that it does not represent any increase in marketing costs.

Appraisers of the C.C.C. are also starting to work in the fleece wool states, appraising wools in the warehouses of the member agencies of the National where the warehouses have been approved. It is expected it will only be a matter of a few weeks before the system will be under way throughout the country.

tralian grower, its truths are applicable to any wool growing country.

The author of the article referred to has no dispute with the statement that there is need for stability in the wool grower's business. In other branches of the trade, he points out, selling prices are based on cost plus a reason-

able profit which takes into account the labor, services, and capital invested, but the producing end cannot operate on such a basis. He says:

The grower accepts all the hazards of seasonal conditions. He employs labor, his own energy and ingenuity are exerted to the full, and his commitments in capital are usually very substantial.

A year's work, based upon a lifetime of knowledge and experience, produces a wool clip. Yet, when it comes to the realization of his clip, the grower must bow to a set of circumstances entirely beyond his control. Even at time of shearing the result is usually obscure; while to accurately forecast the market a year ahead is a sheer impossibility.

Any fair-minded critic must admit that a claim for stable wool markets, based upon payable prices, is surely seasonable.

"But," he continues, "unfortunately, so far as Australia is concerned, any attempt to put this into practice appears doomed to complete failure."

Why? In the first place, the success of any price-fixing arrangement depends upon market control. This, in the case of Australia, is impossible of achievement because 90 per cent of her clip is exported and subject to "the vagaries of world demand." And world demand is something that cannot be regulated, the article suggests, as has been shown by various attempts in the past in connection with such commodities as wheat, cotton, rubber and tobacco.

The two chief perils of price fixing are named as (1) the accumulation of large supplies, which is the "greatest menace to any market," and (2) increased competition from substitutes.

When any obstacle stops the natural flow of commerce, congestion results. Because the price of wool is fixed, it does not necessarily follow that the manufacturer will be able to sell his product at a profit. The contents of the ultimate consumer's pocketbook would have to be fixed to give that assurance. Hence he defers buying as long as possible in order to see how things will work out and accumulations of wool result. Such was "the experience in all other similar attempts with regard to basic commodities in world demand, and there is no reason whatever to believe that wool would fare differently."

In connection with the second menace, that of intensification of competi-

tion from wool substitutes, Australia is particularly concerned with the development and use of synthetic fibers in Germany, Italy, and Japan, large customers of hers, in their effort to be self-contained. And the fixing of wool prices would naturally increase the determination of those countries to carry out that policy.

"In theory," the article concludes, "price fixing for wool is fair and equitable; but on entering the difficult spheres of world trade and international relationships, one must admit, reluctantly, that it is not practicable. The clip must be kept moving into consumption, and any legislation which would prejudice this issue must be discarded. The industry is now passing through a difficult period; but, relying on its own strength, it will again emerge successfully."

## Railroads Attempt Increase In Feeder Rates

A LARGE group of western railroads have recently applied to the Interstate Commerce Commission for permission to publish tariffs which would materially increase the freight rates on feeder and stocker live stock.

At a Denver meeting on May 9, a decision to oppose the request of the railroads was reached by representatives of the National Wool Growers Association, the American National Live Stock Association, the National Livestock Marketing Association, the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association and the Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers Association.

In substance, the present proposal of the railroads is to require the collection of the full rates applicable to fat animals on all shipments of feeders unless they are actually moved to market by rail after fattening.

The present move appears to be prompted partly by a recent decision of the I. C. C. in which the railroads were required to remove discrimination in eastern states. In this proceeding, it was shown that various public markets in Ohio, Indiana and Kentucky were unable to receive feeding livestock from the range states at the 85 per cent rate prevailing west of Chi-

cago. However, eastern points outside of the markets still were able to receive feeder stock on a rate that represented 85 per cent of the fat rate for the part of the haul west of the Illinois-Indiana line.

In ordering the railroads to remove the discrimination, the Commission called attention to the fact that western carriers had never availed themselves of the privilege extended through the decision of the Commission on January 10, 1933. At that time the carriers were authorized to require proof of a second rail shipment in cases in which the feeder rate was likely to be used in shipping fat stock. The recent decision on this case, however, pointed out that the railroads never had made use of the authority granted at that time. In the recent application for change of rates, no attempt is made to justify their failure to use the power granted in 1933 to avoid an improper use of the 85 per cent feeder rates.

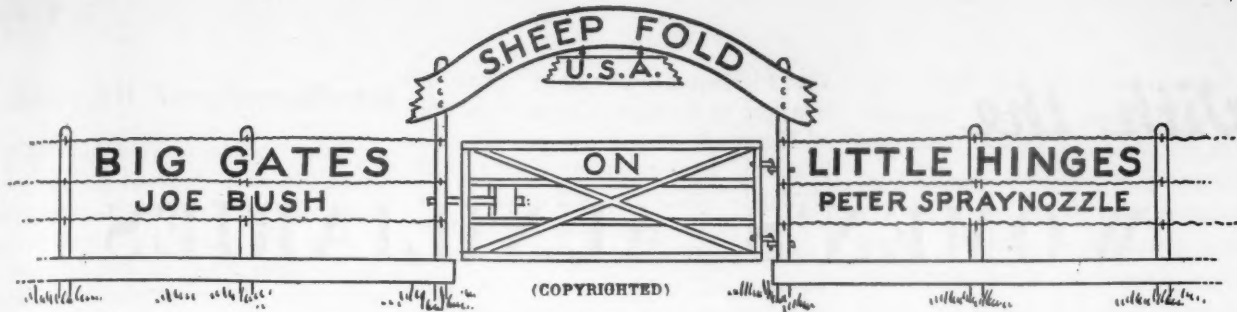
It is now proposed to entirely remove from all railroad tariffs, all references to feeder and stocker livestock, and that the fat rates will be paid on the first movement in all cases. Then when the stock is reshipped by rail, the 15 per cent of the inbound freight bill already paid may be claimed as a refund, or to apply upon the further shipment to market.

This would compel payment of full fat livestock rates on all shipments of feeders that were trucked to market after being fattened. In addition, the carriers except 365 points in 27 states and state that the proposed arrangement will not apply at these stations.

In view of the failure of the railroads to apply safeguards previously authorized, it seems probable that the Commission will now refuse to grant the proposed arrangement. If the Commission does not so act, however, it is probable that the whole question of livestock freight rates in the areas west of Chicago will be reopened for consideration in order to fairly and adequately dispose of the whole matter of rates on feeder animals.

**LAMB makes menu planning easy.**





**JOE BUSH**, who goes about quite a bit, says there are as many ideas on the President's recently announced spending, pump-priming program as there are minds in the country. Joe says looks like the wet spell his Dad had in mind when he urged Joe to save for a rainy day was here.

Times are changing and folks must accustom themselves and shape their lives to fit the change. Experience and knowledge give man more power, but unless there is an advance in moral worth—moral character, moral courage—corresponding to the advance in knowledge, experience will sow its seeds of wisdom in shallow ground.

Was a time, Joe says, when a Sheepfold neighbor was seen throwing out the dishwater, that meant a new baby. Now, Joe says, it means just another afternoon meeting of the "bridge club."

Joe says there was a time when folks went on a mission to save a lamb; now like as not they're looking for a sheep to shear. From our town not so long ago, a young lady was going away on a mission. Joe asked her what her mission in life was and she said it was to find a man with a mansion.

Joe says when he and I were young, all we wanted was a little shack out beside "the Utah trail" and a promise of "a mansion in the sky." Now we want a mansion on earth, a gold mine in the sky, a rainbow round our shoulder and a "big blue sky above."

R. B. T. Taylor, who, as Bob Burns would say, is my poetry writing uncle, is always sending me gems from his storehouse of human knowledge—gems vid his permission I send on to you. He writes:

If you hear a song that thrills you, sung by any child of song  
Praise it; do not let the singer wait your word of praise too long.  
Why should one who thrills your heart lack the joy your praise imparts?

If a silver laugh goes ringing, brings the sunshine to your face,  
Share it. 'Tis a wise man's saying, Joy's an angel born of faith,  
There is health and good in mirth, where an honest laugh has birth.

An act of Congress, Joe Bush says, will always be just an act of Congress. It may carry the will of a President, but it's still just an act of Congress and its worth to the country as a recovery plan, a helpful measure, depends on how industry can use it. Because a thing is written in a book does not prove it infallible when applied to facts on the range, the ranch, in labor or industry.

When it's lambing time at Joe's place at Sheepfold, he has a lambing crew. Joe tells them what he wants done—and expects what he wants done will be done. If what he wants done is done as he wants it done, Joe will accept the results without a whine. He will listen to suggestions, set aside what experience has taught in order to try out a prop-

osition that listens well. If it's a fizzle, Joe pays the bill—but he wants to OK any change in his planned program.

Und I don't reckon there is much difference between Joe Bush on his Sheepfold ranch and the President at the head of a Democratic House and Senate. The Congress is where it is because there were not enough people to break the hold the Democratic Congressional candidates had on the coat tails of the President. His strength was their strength; his platform, their platform. What platform are they standing on now?

What industry the country over needs is a market—a cash market resting on the firm ground of labor employed by industry—und industry financed by capital at a rate of interest that will permit a living wage to labor, a fair return to industry and a profit to capital. There have been enough cork bobbing markets, markets bobbing on the troubled waters of overproduction, installment buying—a little down and the balance sometime maybe—markets stimulated by the first sucker that grabs the baited hook. There has been enough, more than enough of that.

At Sheepfold we don't have a chamber of commerce or a commercial club, but we do have an improvement club. At our weekly board meeting there was not a voice raised in defense of the President und his pump-priming, spending program. What was said there was off the record, but we did send our Secretary, who is a most persuasive lobbyist, to get for us while the getting was good, whatever there was to get. Living as we do on the banks of the "Little Lost Lamb Creek," we don't ever need our pump primed. But as the old song goes, "Everybody's doing it, everybody's doing it now."

Some folks who live in the valley see more pleasing prospects than do others who live on a hill. In the State of Washington, between the Selah und the Yakima Valley proper, there is a little mountain called "Lookout Point." Looking down from the summit, one man vid the naked eye saw thousands of fruit trees in full bloom; another vid a powerful field glass saw three pigs in a hog pen. Both men were thrilled by what they saw.

Some will see in the President's more-money spending plan, a stepping stone; some who do not see eye to eye with the President, will as good citizens try und be helpful. Others will see only another supply of pork in the old pork barrel. They will publicly applaud the President, while in private practice their neighbors will be appalled by what they do.

Joe Bush says if you can't see the bright side, polish up the dark side with a grin.

*With the*

## WOMEN'S AUXILIARIES

Material for this department should be sent to the National Press Correspondent, Mrs. Emory C. Smith, 1636 Princeton Avenue, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Acting as chairman of the Promotion Committee of the Women's Auxiliary to the National Wool Growers Association, I would like to submit the following outline for our program during the year 1938-1939:

A dance or night entertainment sponsored by the Ladies Auxiliary, during summer convention.

July, a picnic for members and their families.

October, wool exhibit at the fair, or a lamburger stand.

November 20-28, Wool Promotion Week; contact stores for window exhibits.

December, wool exhibit and fashion show if possible during convention.

Sponsor prizes for 4 H Clubs.

Hoping this program will meet with your approval.

Mrs. Hyrum Erickson, Chairman  
Mrs. David Smith, 1721 Herbert Ave.,  
Salt Lake City, Utah

Mrs. Ira D. Staggs, Baker, Oregon  
Mrs. O. R. Ivory, Salt Lake City, Utah  
Mrs. Emma Yearian, Lemhi, Idaho  
Mrs. Percy Folsom, Pilot Rock, Oregon  
Mrs. S. H. Boyd, Baker, Oregon  
Mrs. Herman Oliver, John Day, Oregon  
Mrs. Dean Orme, St. Anthony, Idaho  
Mrs. Garish Mahaffey, Grand Valley,  
Colorado

Mrs. P. J. Quealy, Kemmerer, Wyoming  
Mrs. Fred Falconer, Walla Walla, Wash-  
ington

Mrs. Wayne Stewart, Dayville, Oregon  
Mrs. David Jones, Syntex, Oregon  
Mrs. J. B. Adrian, Ontario, Oregon  
Mrs. J. R. Eliason, 1606 South 4th East,  
Salt Lake City, Utah  
Mrs. H. A. White, Goldendale, Wash-  
ington

Mrs. F. E. Farrior, Pendleton, Oregon  
Mrs. Vera Gay, John Day, Oregon  
Mrs. Floyd W. Lee, Albuquerque, New  
Mexico  
Mrs. F. S. Gedney, Mountain Home, Idaho

### OREGON

#### Morrow County

A woolen exhibit and tea were planned by the Woolgrowers auxiliary at their last meeting and luncheon at the Lucas Place. This will be given April 30 at the Episcopal Parish house, and will be put on this year instead of the annual style show and tea. Besides a display of old and new woolen articles, there is to be a display of antiques. Francis Clinton of Pendleton is to be invited to speak at this time on woolen fabrics and testing materials for wool.

Mrs. J. G. Barratt told of the unique tea table at Prineville at the state convention with a pale yellow blanket on the table with yarn flowers as favors. It was thought something like this might be worked out with service on colored pottery.

Mrs. Frank B. Nickerson told of two parchment deeds belonging to the Luckman Brothers and which were made in England over 300 years ago.

Mrs. Lucy E. Rodgers asked the auxiliary to procure two leaders for 4-H club work, one in cooking and one in sewing. Mrs. Joseph Belanger was asked to assist in this.

Mrs. Josephine Mahoney, Secretary

#### Grant County

The regular monthly meeting of the Grant County Chapter, Women's Auxiliary to the Oregon Wool Growers Association, was held at the Clyde Buchanan home on Saturday, April 23. A delicious buffet luncheon was served by the ladies of the Prairie City Unit before the opening of the business meeting. The president, Mrs. R. T. McHaley, presided with Ruthella Gress substituting for the regular secretary. There were 19 visitors and 21 members present. Mrs. Clara Boyer was appointed Community Chairman for John Day for the year. An outline of sug-

gested work for the year from the chairman of the National Promotion Committee was read and an endeavor will be made to follow the program as nearly as possible.

The date and place of the next meeting will be announced at a later date.

Mrs. Herman Oliver, Cor. Secretary

### UTAH

#### Salt Lake City

The regular monthly meeting of the Salt Lake Chapter was held April 11, 1938, at Keeley's Tea Room. A delicious luncheon was served to 21 members and 8 guests. Three long tables were arranged into a triangle. Mrs. Julian Neff presented everyone with a rose and a bit of fern for a corsage at the close of the meeting.

Music was furnished by a string ensemble consisting of Mrs. E. Jay Kearns, Mrs. Pugmire, and Mrs. Woolley, playing three numbers.

Mrs. J. Roy Free gave a very interesting talk, giving the high-lights of a trip to Mexico which she recently enjoyed. "Going into Mexico", said Mrs. Free, "is like going into another world."

Mrs. H. H. Stevens substituted for Mrs. Sylvester Broadbent, Chairman of the nominating committee. The following were chosen to be voted upon at the next meeting of officers the coming year: President, Mrs. J. R. Eliason; Vice-President, Mrs. E. Jay Kearns; Secretary, Miss Josephine Smith; Treasurer, Mrs. William Oswald; Directors, Mrs. W S. Hatch and Mrs. Tracy Wright.

Mrs. Alex Crystal made a few brief remarks in appreciation of the work the officers had completed during the year and presented each officer with a charming gift. Each officer graciously responded after which the meeting was adjourned.

Mrs. Royal M. Smith, Secretary

## Calling All Needlecrafters!

“DO not hide your light under a bushel basket” is an old adage but true, none-the-less. There are many experienced seamstresses and many a clever idea lurking in the ranks of our auxiliary members, and in order that they won't “be hidden under a bushel basket” may we ask you to tell us about them?

If you know how to make a cuddly lovable toy lamb or wooly animal toy out of wool, or how to fashion a gay boutonniere from scraps of yarn, won't you write us how it is done in order that we may pass the good word along and at the same time further the use

of wool? If you have a special knack for any type of handicraft or any new idea for the use of wool, we would be more than grateful for your ideas and instructions how we might duplicate them in our spare time.

It is our idea to print these instructions here in our pages of the womens' section in the hopes that some will avail themselves of the opportunity of creating useful and attractive gifts and other articles of wool and feel the thrill that comes from seeing something fashioned by our own hands.

Now come on, all you-who-know-how and tell us, who-don't-know-how, just how it's done and let's see how much wool we can use.

## Can Auxiliary Organizations Help Build Communities

*Presented Before the National Wool Growers Auxiliary Organization  
By Effie S. Barrows, Home Furnishings Specialist,  
Utah Extension Service*

FRIENDS of the National Wool Growers Auxiliary, I am happy for this privilege of discussing with you, for a few moments, ways in which I believe your organization and organizations in general can help build communities.

There is not a doubt in my mind that any wide-awake group of women can play a vital part in the building of any and everything, communities included. Especially may such organizations be assured of success when all members can agree on a program with a worthy purpose, can attack it with whole-hearted group action, and all back the plan to the Nth degree. If these wide-awake groups of women cannot be found among wool growers' auxiliary organizations, I question that they exist anywhere.

Dr. Hartley B. Alexander, professor of philosophy at Scripps College, California, said only last week that “Every idea is an incipient action.” Then my faith in your organization is strengthened because I know you to

be women of ideas—ideas that will help build the sheep industry as well as the community.

As I think into past experiences, the perplexing problem seems always to have been just what can be done that will be helpful to the greatest number of persons. “The good life” for everybody we would make our goal, but just which one of us is to say of what the “good life” consists? As I see it, that must be determined through careful group analysis of determining factors in our own regions. There are always so many drawbacks to this plan and that plan and the other; this thing we are sure will cost so much more in time and money than ever could be mustered together. Well, anything worth while is sure to have its drawbacks, especially when considered from a short vision point of view. Why not make longtime programs and aim to develop a fraction of the plan each year?

Is it not the rule and not the exception to the rule, for most organizations to embody too much in the program

of a single year, then to become discouraged because goals cannot be reached? Sometimes there seems to be such an enormous, senseless waste of time and effort in organization programs. Perhaps concentration upon a small unit that is only a mere building block in a larger plan may bring about greater satisfactions and rewards.

Before beginning activities in any organization do you not think it may be well to “put our own house in order”? Are we sufficiently interested in the development of the sheep industry; can everyone of us honestly say we are part of our community, not apart from it; are we, as individuals, willing to accept responsibilities; have we sufficient faith in our fellow men to work with them, not for them? And so, we might continue to analyze our own persons and our own attitudes. Each one having put herself in tune, perhaps, we are now ready to go after those perplexing program building problems.

Let us first look into some of the many things our group might work upon to benefit the sheep industry. So long as organization members are not familiar with legislation affecting their industry, would it not be worth while to make a study of what has been accomplished by legislation with results that have been enjoyed or suffered; of what is being done with the outcome anticipated and of what present trends indicate as future legislation together with purposes and aims? Whether proposed legislation appears to be helpful or harmful, I believe auxiliary members cannot afford to jump at conclusions, or even to take for granted opinions of others. Let us not stop short of obtaining all facts and figures essential to the best understanding of problems if we would assist growers' organizations in bringing any measure to successful passing or complete failure.

I understand that paramount problems of the moment, of interest to wool growers are: a reciprocal trade agree-



ment now being negotiated with Great Britain in which lower duties on woolen goods are proposed; new grazing policies announced by the Forest Service, public domain grazing, and means of improving production and marketing. Are we as well prepared as our husbands are to judge the worth or the harm any proposed action on these problems may bring to our industry? If the answer is no, do not such studies offer program content for auxiliary organizations?

Do we all know present prices of raw materials, comparative prices over a number of years, prices of finished products then and now, and the effect these prices have had on wool consumption and the sheep business in general? Should our group not be interested in watching for price fluctuations both up and down; should we not know that when the future of the industry looks darkest it is to our advantage to prove boosters instead of knockers? Did you ever hear of any industry that flourished or that even made small progress through constant enumeration of all the ills and drawbacks or by finding fault with the powers that be? Could not such problems bring better understanding through group study and discussion, than by individual judgments?

I wonder if all the persons with whom we all work know the numerous uses for wool, for pelts, for lamb and mutton, for mutton fat, for even the bony structure of the sheep? Do we all know to what extent our products are used by various industries? An item of intense interest along this line appears in the current issue of Readers Digest under the title "Business Starts With Buying." In this article we are told that in one automobile plant alone 4,000,000 pounds of wool is used annually, which is equivalent to shearings from one million sheep; also, that 455,000 pounds of goat hair is used by the same plant, representing shearings from 100,000 goats. This same article states, however, that 100,000,000 pounds of cotton is used by this manufacturer in one year. Contrast that 100,000,000 pounds of cotton against the 4,000,000

pounds of wool. I wonder if research into the value of one product or the other would not prove that wool could be used to advantage to replace some of the cotton in use at present? You will readily see there is enough material on uses of wool alone for even a longtime program.

Again, do all the women with whom we work know to what extent wool is adulterated, the effect various types of adulterants have on the product? Do they know whether adulteration is justifiable; do they know how to test fabric for wool and for strength of fiber; how to determine whether fabric is made from fine wool or from coarse wool; for what purpose coarse wool serves best or when finer grades are superior for the job? Do they know how to tell when fabric is made from long fiber virgin wool and when the wool content is merely reclaimed wool or shoddy?

Can organizations work toward securing informative labeling of products from the sheep; labels with information couched in simple terms that the lay woman may use as a guide to intelligent purchasing? Can our organizations create such interest in informative labeling that families will read labels and use this information as purchasing guides?

As a reminder that present forms of labeling may be deceiving, not so long ago a sample of pure wool was needed at a demonstration. The wife of a wool grower volunteered to bring a section of a wool bat she had at home. When the only package about was opened and proved to be cotton, Mrs. Jones was asked if she remembered the wool. "Yes, you have it," was the reply. "I am sure that label reads 'Pure Virgin Wool'." And sure enough it did, in large letters, too; but a line just beneath in smaller type said, "with China Cotton" and further down in small print the label guaranteed the product to be 5 per cent wool, 95 per cent cotton.

As long as women in wool-producing areas fill comforters with cotton in place of wool because they believe wool works through the covering, some

training is needed in selection of wool for comforters and in proper methods of quilt construction. As long as our members make household accessories without weaving into them one thread of wool when wool would be far superior to the fiber being used, there is work ahead in study of home uses of wool.

Most homemakers are fearful of the outcome when cleaning woolen materials. As long as this condition exists, a real job looms in teaching care and cleaning of articles made from wool. As long as wool is tabooed because moths may enter and steal away the goods, modern methods of moth control could well be studied. As long as we live in climates that justify use of wool in family clothing, every one of us should know construction points and simple tailored finishes that are the mark of distinction between garments haphazardly made and those that are carefully constructed.

As a departure from routine county fair procedure, your organization from Vernal last fall supervised booths at the Uintah Basin Industrial Convention where instruction was given in methods of producing fine colors for fine rugs; where the various steps in rug making from raw wool were introduced; where a variety of knitting stitches were taught; and where tailored finishes were demonstrated. You may find a similar plan workable in your own locality.

Concerning the use of lamb and mutton in the family diet, I feel justified in saying as long as family appetites are trained to call for large quantities of beef and pork with only rare inclusion in the meal of lamb and mutton, a problem exists in devising ways and means of using our own product more palatably. Too often, meat served under the name "spring lamb" is from aged ewes. Yesterday's demonstration truly perked us all up on uses of lamb and mutton. Yet, somehow, I feel that some of you really question that the sheep is used only rarely as food. Well, let us look at some figures that come direct from Washington, figures that have been arrived at through trends in present meat consumption. We are

told that every one of us need one hundred pounds of lean meat in the diet per year; then the hundred pounds is broken down into smaller units according to variety. Now, remember the trend is the guide and the Bureau of Home Economics recommends 34 pounds of beef, 39 of pork and only 3 pounds of lamb and mutton. This is the ratio remember in which these three meats are at present being used. Need we go further or is this enough for comparison? Is the three pounds of mutton and lamb listed because our product is inferior to beef and pork; is the figure so low because lamb and mutton are difficult of digestion; because they are higher in price; or because they cannot be prepared in a great variety of ways? I'll say no to every question! Yet I shall also say it is a challenge to our organization to discover the reason and to combat the difficulty. Have you ever tasted anything better at any time than a juicy leg of lamb with mint sauce, new green peas, browned potatoes and golden brown lamb gravy? I have often been told that the average person does not like the flavor of lamb and mutton. I am reminded now of a church social where mutton rissoles with tomato sauce were served as the entree. Three hundred guests were served and not one scrap of the rissole was left on a single plate.

I wonder if you have ever pondered over new industries that could be developed; industries such as yarn manufacture, pelt tanning, fabric weaving and felt making? Have you calculated how such industries would not only increase the demand for sheep but how at the same time they might provide employment for many persons now unemployed? The response is sure to be, "But those things take capital and who among us has that; they take training and who is educated for the job?" Well, if our own community, county or state cannot open up new possibilities, would it be a crime to bring in outside capital and supervisory personnel; if in the end a new market is opened for our wares, if additional persons are given vocational training, and if more mouths may be

fed from the pay envelopes?

Many programs helpful to communities as well as to organizations and their individual members may be built upon subjects not having to do with sheep or wool. We all know that to do good work on any job requires health and that normal man likes to do his job well. Yet, the money spent for medicines and treatment of illness in our nation runs into many millions of dollars. How about conducting a campaign on ways and means of keeping well to avoid the high cost of making well?

We often hear that "a community is no better than its homes." True, your home and my own may be all that we could ask for, but how many homes in the community are on a par with our own? As long as many homes in every county may be described both inside and outside by such adjectives as cluttered and unkempt, to say nothing of existing unsanitary conditions, could not our efforts be profitably centered upon home and community improvements? These are sure to pay large dividends. Even if beautification is inducement only for tourists to "linger longer" within our town limits the increase in resources will be more than negligible.

As long as statistics tell us that women are spending around 70 per cent of their time in the kitchen could not our efforts well be directed toward a campaign that would assure more attractive, more convenient and more leisure-providing kitchens?

As long as women are charged with the handling of 85 per cent of all money going over the retail counter, and in as much as a large percentage of purchases are truly disappointing, is it not to our advantage to study points in purchasing that are sure to bring greater satisfactions, in other words to make everyone conscious that better purchasing practices pay sizable dividends.

Our own town or county may need a pleasure park, a swimming pool, a community recreation center. Is there not power enough in our own organization to engineer a project of that magnitude to creditable completion?

I realize that not a single new thought has been introduced in this discussion but, after all, is there "anything new under the sun"? I have merely called attention to the fact that there is a real need for our organizations, that we would wish for every one "the good life," that to do our best work we must go after everything we do with the right attitude of body and mind, that we must work with people instead of for them. I have enumerated several things we might do to help expand the sheep industry and have called attention to other community needs that could well furnish program material.

Now I hope all of you have ambition to give wide publicity to the sheep industry by increasing interest in the use of wool for clothing, for household furnishings, for home accessories, and for everything for which an ounce of wool may be used. I trust not a single one of us will ever be guilty of purchasing such materials as floor coverings, upholstery materials and blankets that do not bear the label "all wool," and I should encourage fostering in a nation-wide way such practices as wool rug making or knitting campaigns.

From a viewpoint of extending the use of lamb and mutton in the diet I should recommend compilation of booklets of toothsome recipes, making sure that these include recipes for leftovers. Made over dishes are often among the most popular. A few years ago an apple growers' organization issued "101 Apple Recipes." Could we not go one better and make our own "110 Lamb Recipes"? I am wondering also how lamb or mutton refreshments would take when food is served at group meetings. Could a competitive plan be worked out with some small award presented at the end of the year to the person who served the most popular dish in which lamb or mutton was used?

Now in case some of the calamities predicted do come true and we do have some failures in our industry may I, in closing, remind you that all which is good in life does not lie in money and that big profits often divert from living that is happy, healthful and satisfying?

## Summary of the 1937 Idaho Lamb Pools

The lamb pools covered in this article are handled as a cooperative project of the Extension Division of the University of Idaho and the Department of Animal Husbandry of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The report also includes a table summarizing the pools during the last ten years.

**D**URING the 1937 marketing season, 42,699 lambs, 2,775 ewes and 1,125 wethers were marketed through the Idaho lamb pools. A total of 35,133 lambs were shipped to the central markets, while 7,566 were sold at home.

The home sales consisted of 3,194 fat lambs, averaging 87.4 pounds, and selling at an average of \$8.34 per hundred, and 4,372 feeders, averaging 73.3 pounds, which sold at an average price of \$7.65 per hundred. The combined weights and prices of the home sales for the season gave an average receiving weight of 79.24 pounds, selling at an average price of \$7.97 per hundred.

Lamb shipments consisted of 35,133 lambs loaded and 35,095 arriving safely on the market, with a loss of 38 head in 152 cars. The average receiving weight was 82.5 pounds, and the average market weight 78.3 pounds. On the market they sold at an average of \$10.16 per hundred. After deducting the shipping expense, the shrinkage and payment for the lambs lost, the yearly average value of the lambs on the basis of the receiving weight was \$8.67 per hundred.

The difference of 70 cents per hundred paid for the lambs by shipping is partly explained by the fact that 83 per cent of the lambs shipped to market sold as first grade slaughter lambs, while 58 per cent of the lambs sold at home were feeders. The fat lambs sold in the home yards brought an average price of \$8.34 per hundred, while those shipped to market netted \$9.09 per hundred on the home weight. The net price received for the feeders

shipped to the central market was \$7.75, compared with \$7.65 per hundred received for the feeders sold at home.

The wethers consisted of 1,125, of which 93 were sold at home and 1,032 shipped to market. The wethers sold at home brought an average price of \$6.17 per hundred, while those shipped sold on the market at an average price of \$7.72, giving a home value of \$6.20 per hundred. The shrink was 7.3 per cent, as compared with 5.1 per cent on the lambs. In addition, 11 wethers were lost enroute to market.

The number of ewes included in the pools was 2,853, of which 318 ewes were sold at home and 2,535 shipped to market. The ewes sold at home brought an average of \$3.29 per hundred, while those shipped to market averaged \$2.26 per hundred. The shrinkage averaged 7.7 per cent. The loss of ewes shipped to market consisted of 78 head, resulting mostly from the loading of decrepit old ewes of a grade that is usually pelted.

Upon request of the cooperating pools, the prices received by selling lambs at home, compared with those by shipping, have been kept separate. The results show a higher average secured by the pools that shipped, as is shown in Table I.

The average car shipped in 1937 was loaded as follows:

	Home Weight	Market Weight	Shrinkage	
			Pounds	Per Cent
231 lambs	19,059	18,084	975	5.1
16 ewes	2,223	2,051	172	7.7
7 wethers	728	675	53	7.3
254 head	22,010	20,810	1,200	5.5

Shipping losses totaled 127, consisting of 38 lambs, 78 ewes and 11 wethers. Because of the favorable market price, some decrepit ewes were shipped. The average lamb loss was one to each four cars.

The 304 decks of pooled lambs were distributed to the market as follows:

Denver	132	decks
Omaha	65	"
Chicago	39	"
St. Joseph	29	"
Sioux City	27	"
Spokane	10	"
Ogden	2	"

The average shipping expense per car was \$211.62. Based on the loading weight, the shipping expense was 96 cents. Taken on the market weight, the shipping expense per hundred was \$1.02. The home expense is not given in this calculation or in this report.

A comparison of the market returns on Idaho farm and range lambs during the summer of 1937 is shown below:

	Farm Lambs	Range Lambs
Number of lambs	100,877	842,172
Av. Market weight, lbs.	78.96	80.0
Av. market, cwt.	\$10.23	\$10.18
Percentage fat lambs	82.49	79.39
Percentage feeder lambs	13.63	19.23
Percentage cull lambs	3.88	1.38
Av. weight, fat lambs	80.59	82.54
Av. price fat lambs, cwt.	\$10.39	\$10.42
Av. weight, feeder lambs	70.93	69.64
Av. price feeder lambs, cwt.	\$ 9.31	\$ 9.11
Av. weight, cull lambs	72.47	75.35
Av. price cull lambs, cwt.	\$ 9.18	\$ 8.91

Table I—Three Years' Results Selling or Shipping Pooled Lambs

	1935		1936		1937	
	Home Sales	Market Sales	Home Sales	Market Sales	Home Sales	Market Sales
Number of lambs reported	4,594	18,792	11,922	22,576	7,566	35,133
Av. receiving weight, lbs.	81.2	79.0	86.8	84.6	79.2	82.5
Av. net price hundred	\$6.92	\$7.00	\$7.66	\$7.86	\$7.97	\$8.67



## California Lamb Conditions

Owing to unavoidable delay in printing this issue of the Wool Grower it is possible to include the May 7 report of the Federal-State Market News Service on conditions in California and lamb sales and shipments:

In California during the past week ranges and pastures were drying rapidly and maturing feed. This will harden up the lambs, although there is evidence of maturing alfilaria seed making an appearance in some of the lambs. There has been no additional moisture lately. The loading, buying and contracting of fat lambs was quite active in most all sections having stock marketable at this time. The bulk of business has been by traders, the packers buying very few lambs for mid-western movement the past week.

**SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY:** Recent surveys indicate that the bulk of lambs have found an outlet, with very scant recent purchases, the bulk having been loaded, or disposed of. A few deals were on a \$6.75@7.00 f.o.b. basis. Feeding lambs in small volume moved from \$6.00@6.25, with lower grade kinds down to \$5.50. Some growers contemplate shearing spring lambs to run on available feeds until they are in slaughter flesh, rather than selling as feeding lambs at present.

**SACRAMENTO VALLEY:** The movement here has been quite voluminous. Contracting has been fairly active also. Several sizeable bands of good to choice 82-90 lb. fat lambs in the Willows Section secured \$6.75@7.00 per cwt., a few reaching \$7.10 at loading points. At mid-week some bids were 25@40c above these figures, but were refused first by growers and at the week-end cancelled by buyers, due to recent action of mid-western lamb markets. A few small bands of second cuts, common to medium slaughter lambs scored \$6.00@6.50 per cwt. Several bands were bought by traders at \$5.75@6.25 per head, estimating the weights of these lambs, they would calculate around \$7.00 per cwt. f.o.b. main line points. Towards the Coast sections around Rio Vista, several strings secured \$6.75@7.00 per cwt. to packers and traders.

**GENERAL:** No feeder contracts have been reported for several weeks, but growers who have available feed are inclined to shear their lambs that are not now fat and run them until they attain local killer flesh for Coast markets later. The usual California early crop has less than 10 per cent sold as feeders.

**SUMMARY LAST WEEK'S MOVEMENT:** During the past week approximately 582 single decks, or 82,000 head passed out of the state, North and East, the total to date being 1,329 single decks, or 188,461 head. A year ago to May 8th about 989 single decks, or 140,000 head had moved.

**INTERMOUNTAIN GATEWAYS:** For the week ending Saturday, May 7, a total of 581 single decks, or 80,788 head arrived. The total for the season to date approximates 1,306 single decks, or 183,848 head.

### WOOL FUTURES TRANSACTIONS PUT UNDER COMMODITY EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATION

THE following announcement was recently received from Washington, D. C.:

"President Roosevelt has signed S. 3105, a bill extending the Commodity Exchange Act to include wool tops. 'Wool tops' is the commercial term applied to wool that has been processed by being sorted, scoured, carded, and combed. When in this form it is a rope-like-strand composed only of the long fibers in parallel arrangement from the processes through which the wool has passed. It is in this form that the commodity is traded in for future delivery. Heretofore the Commodity Exchange Act has included cotton, rice, butter, eggs, potatoes and millfeeds in addition to grains.

"Trading in wool tops futures is conducted on an exchange known as Wool Associates of the New York Cotton Exchange, Inc. Trading was begun on May 1, 1931 and since that time has increased steadily from 3,360,000 pounds in 1931 to slightly more than 31,000,000 pounds during the year ended December 31, 1937.

"Trading in wool tops futures is especially important to wool producers as well as distributors and traders," states Dr. J. W. T. Duvel, Chief of the Commodity Exchange Administration, "inasmuch as futures transactions, although relatively small in relation to the total volume of wool produced in the United States each year, undoubtedly has some effect upon prices of the spot commodity. Wool production in the United States has an average annual value of around \$75,000,000.

"The fundamental purpose in placing wool tops futures transactions under the supervision of the Commodity Exchange Administration is to insure fair practice on the exchange and to provide a measure of control over unreasonable speculation."

### PROSPECT FOR INCREASED MILL USE OF WOOL OFFSET BY LARGE STOCKS

A REPORT issued May 10 by the Department of Agriculture stated: "Current prospects indicate some increase in the domestic mill consumption of wool during the last six months of 1938. But the possible effect of this increased use upon wool prices is expected by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics to be about offset by the relatively large supplies of raw wool in the United States and foreign markets.

Indications are that domestic wool prices will remain near present levels through the next few months, the Bureau said in its current wool situation report released.

Stocks of apparel wool held by and afloat to United States dealers and manufacturers were reported in late March as 217 million pounds, grease basis. In addition, about 22 million pounds of domestic shorn wool is estimated on ranches and farms and in local warehouses in the 13 western sheep states. Stocks totaled considerably larger than on the corresponding dates of 1936 and 1937, and probably larger than the April 1 stocks of the past ten years.

Apparent supplies in the five principal Southern Hemisphere countries on April 1 are estimated at about one billion pounds, 35 per cent more than a year earlier and larger than April 1 supplies in any of the past ten years.

Consumption of apparel wool in the United States during the first quarter of 1938 was the lowest reported for any first quarter in the past 21 years. Retail sales of wool goods, apparently, have not declined nearly so much as mill consumption, and stocks of finished and semi-finished goods have been reduced. This situation, says the Bureau, gives promise of some improvement in mill consumption within the next few months.

Imports of apparel wool into the United States during March were reported as less than a million pounds, the smallest monthly total since the early part of 1933. It is believed that imports will continue small throughout the rest of 1938."

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\$ 9.11  
75.35  
\$ 8.91  
Market  
Sales  
35,133  
82.5  
\$8.67

# THE LAMB MARKETS

## In April

### Chicago

**A**LTERNATE breaks and recoveries keep lamb feeders in a state of uncertainty. Sporadic slumps have been promptly repaired; every advance is a signal for a bear raid. This erratic condition is expected to continue. Other branches of the livestock trade are reasonably stable, but with a soft undertone suggestive of still lower prices. The lamb market displays a recuperative capacity that is encouraging to holders of the new crop, old croppers having been practically cleaned up at prices that represented heavy loss.

At Chicago the April market fluctuated from day to day, weekly price changes never exceeding 25 cents per hundred. A generous supply of Colorado and Nebraska lambs furnished the bulk of the contribution. An inviolable rule was that when eastern shippers filed orders a 15 to 25-cent advance resulted. Breaks checked loading at the supply source west of the Missouri River or nearby feeding stations, which halted bear raids. The market went into May showing scant change compared with the inception of April; on extreme declines the depreciation was 50 to 75 cents per hundred. Only a small proportion of the fed lambs reaching Chicago during April sold below \$8.50 per hundred and on that basis only for bried periods, a large percentage of the supply costing killers \$8.25@8.75 per hundred during the month. The high point was recorded by a \$9.25 top during the first week of the month; the low stage was reached at mid-month when nothing sold above \$8.25 on a single session. The lowest one week top was \$8.65.

During the first week of April \$9.25 was the summit, a spread of \$8.40@8.90 buying the bulk of fed lambs. During the second week \$8.85 was the top, a spread of \$8.25@8.85 purchasing the bulk, and the third week developed an outside price at \$8.50, the bulk selling in a narrow range of \$8@8.35.

During the final week \$8.85 was top with the exception of three loads of the Farr, Colorado, lambs that reached \$9 on the final round, the bulk selling during the week on a spread of \$8.40@8.75.

Shorn lambs comprised the short end of the supply, finding a market that was usually 75 cents to \$1 per hundred under woolled stock. Bulk of the shorn lambs realized anywhere from \$7.25 to \$7.85, an occasional top being registered at \$8. Shearers were inactive, the short end of the month's supply coming minus wool. As they displayed excellent condition, they got action, going over the scales in advance of woolskins usually.

Condition of the entire April lamb supply, fleeced and shorn, was excellent and as the bulk of it reached Chicago from the hands of standard feeders, 90 per cent made satisfactory yields. Weight was not a handicap when accompanied with quality and condition, weights of 100 pounds or over frequently selling in the upper

price bracket. Frequently the better grades of lambs, all weights, sold within a narrow range of 25 cents per hundred.

Colorado and Nebraska loaded freely all through April in an effort to clear decks before new crop lambs from other quarters arrived. Feeders distributed the movement judiciously, a policy that was largely responsible for price maintenance and stability. Forecasts emanating from buying circles late in March amounted to promise of a \$7.75@8.25 market all through April, but this program could not be carried out as whenever any considerable number of lambs sold below \$8.50, rescue orders arrived from the East. One of the Chicago packers supported the local market consistently; others were out of the bidding at intervals, going short of requirements intermittently and on more than one occasion were responsible for sharp advances.

A feature of April trade was consistent topping by the Harry Farr lambs from Colorado. Usually they sold 10 to 15 cents per hundred above

### Comparative Prices Sheep and Lambs — Alive and Dressed

#### CHICAGO AVERAGE LIVE LAMB PRICES

Week Ending:	May 5, 1938	Apr. 30, 1938	May 1, 1937
Spring Lambs:	\$ 9.65	-----	\$12.20
Fed Lambs:			at Kansas City
Wooled:—			
Choice.....	8.62	\$8.68	12.36
Good.....	8.07	8.07	11.56
Medium.....	7.14	7.14	10.82
Shorn:—			
Choice.....	7.95	7.70	10.25
Good.....	7.40	7.24	9.68
Medium.....	6.50	6.50	9.12
Ewes			
Shorn:—			
Good and Choice.....	4.87	4.93	4.62

#### NEW YORK AVERAGE PRICES FOR WESTERN DRESSED LAMBS

	on May 5		
Spring Lambs: (All Weights)			
Choice.....	19.50	19.90	
Good.....	18.75	18.80	
Medium.....	17.50	17.30	
Fed Lambs: (39-45 lbs.)			
Choice.....	17.50	17.20	19.80
Good.....	17.00	16.65	18.80

any other offering on that session, but both Colorado and Nebraska consignments approached a uniform standard; minus this contribution buyers would have found poor picking. Texas got into action late in the month, putting Fort Worth on the market map in seasonal manner, but without upsetting the stride.

Yearlings were too scarce to quote, only odd consignments arriving at long intervals. The fat ewe market displayed a strong undertone all through the month at \$4@5.25, shorn stock realizing \$5@5.25 on the last round.

Only a few scattering shipments of spring lambs arrived. At mid-month Colorado sent a consignment of 87-pound springers that realized \$10.25. The first Californias of the season reaching Chicago during the last week sold at \$9.40 and \$9.50, the consignment carrying thirteen decks running 90 to 95 pounds. In addition to these, packers received initial consignments from California on the same session. Native springers realized anywhere from \$9.50 to \$13.50 per hundred during the month. A few thousand head of them arrived, trucked from farms. The entire package went to Orthodox Greek trade for Easter use.

Eastern dressed trade was less erratic than usual, which accounts in a measure for reasonable stability in the live market. Spring lambs at Chicago wholesaled at \$17 to \$21 per hundred, New York reporting identically the same quotations. Old crop carcasses were absorbed at \$16@18.50 in Chicago, \$17@18.50 in New York, and practically on the same basis at other Atlantic seaboard distributing points. These prices figured about \$1 to \$2 per hundred lower than at the corresponding period of 1937 when the Chicago top on fat lambs ranged from \$12.25 to \$12.60 and the bulk sold at \$12@12.50. In accordance with custom, eastern markets invariably started the week with advances of 50 cents to \$1, losing ground toward the close when concessions were essential to a clearance, but each week distributors succeeded in making a clean-up and recourse to the freezer was at no time necessary.

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Buyers' pelt credits advanced slightly but insufficiently to relieve the edible portion of the carcass of an obvious load. On full pelts, the credit was \$1.60 per hundred, live weight of the animal, against \$3.65 at the corresponding period of 1937. No. 1 shearings were credited with 40 cents per hundred against \$1.20 last year; No. 2, thirty cents against \$1@1.05.

By this time practically the entire crop of winter fed lambs has gone to the cooler. That it represented unprofitable production to feeders does not need demonstration. Thin lambs went in high last fall and although feeders had the advantage of reduced cost of gains, selling prices were \$1 to \$2 per hundred below initial cost. Production both in numbers and poundage was high. However, feeders loss on cattle was greater, proportionately, than on lambs.

Propects for the immediate future do not indicate material change in lamb prices. The new crop is already at the market gateway and will swell during the next 60 days. All through May and probably until the middle of June, California will be a liberal contributor to eastern supply, packer buyers are already figuring on the Tennessee movement and Kentucky will get into action two weeks later, insuring plenitude until well along in June. Both Virginia and West Virginia report the largest crop of spring lambs ever grown in that territory and they are close to the back door of the seaboard market. Missouri will report increased production and throughout the corn belt the percentage of lambs is large. Texas must be reckoned with and the Northwest will be a factor before these varied eastern supply sources are depleted. Probably a percentage of California's crop will go to the feed lot. At least until July killers show no concern over prospective supply as new crop lambs are coming from every point on the map.

Conservative opinion is that spring lambs will settle down to an \$8.50@9.50 market according to where they pass into killers' hands. A noticeable fact is that cattle and lambs are selling practically in the same price spread at present. Hogs, recently commanding

a premium, have slumped \$1.50 per hundred, while the two other species have held steady. At that hogs have furnished feeders practically all the profits of the past six months. On the investment basis losses on both lambs and cattle were inevitable when purchased.

Feeders and shearers have been practically out of the winter market and at this writing no interest is in evidence. That thin western lambs will realize less money than last fall will not be disputed; depreciation will be determined by several factors, mainly action by fat lambs and wool meanwhile, with cost of feed an important influence. Corn is still cheap, a large proportion of the 1937 crop being still in growers' hands and prospects for the crop now in process of planting are excellent even when a 20 per cent reduction in acreage to comply with the 1938 A.A.A. program is considered. Difficulty may be experienced in enforcing acreage reduction, but in any event feed will be plentiful and cheap unless drought intervenes, and there is a vast acreage in soy beans and other roughage that must be fed up or wasted next fall.

J. E. Poole

## Ogden

**R**EPORTS for April indicate that 630 decks of spring lambs were received at the Ogden Union Stockyards during April, representing 89,527 head. This figure is an increase of 236 decks or 33,786 lambs over those received at the same time in 1937. None were received until April 2, whereas March 15 was the opening date for California lamb shipments the previous year, indicating that lambs were fed longer this year before shipping. This should result in higher average weights than was the case in 1937.

First sales of spring lambs scored \$8.60 for four decks of 82 pound lambs from Clay, Sacramento County, California, which were purchased for eastern consumption. Other sales during the month ranged from \$8.25 to \$8.35, most of the sales moving to New York for slaughter.

Contrary to the previous year at this time, most of the consignments now

being received are in owner or speculator hands, and are moving to market for sale, whereas last year fully 75 per cent of the lambs were in packer hands upon arrival, and were moving through to slaughter.

Shipments of fed lambs out of northern Colorado, Arkansas Valley and the Scottsbluff section continue heavy as feeders rapidly emptied their feed lots. Total shipments to all markets during March, and of recent weeks were considerably heavier than at the same time in 1937, reflecting the increased shipping activities. Prices were as much as \$4 lower than last spring on the new crop lambs, and as much or more lower on fed lambs. Last year a condition of a shortage in the supply of fed lambs, together with a late development of springers held up the price from \$12.50 to \$12.80 at Denver.

D. F. Estes

## Omaha

**A**S far as prices went, the Omaha killer lamb market closed at levels unchanged from those ruling a month earlier, this being the third consecutive month with a closing top of \$8.50 on fed woolskins.

Trade was up and down during the month between a \$9 top and a low of \$8, touched during the week when prices of dressed lamb in the seaboard markets went into a tailspin. The break in live prices might have been considerably worse during that time if order buyers had not supported the market by taking out nearly 40 per cent of the run for slaughter elsewhere. Supplies here during that week were the largest since last October.

Receipts, with the exception of 1936, were the smallest since 1929. Total number of head received during the month was 144,700. Woolskins continued to form the bulk of the run right up to the close of the month but there was an ever increasing percentage of

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springers and clippers in the supply and the number of clean-up shipments around the close of the period signified that the end of another fed lamb season was rapidly approaching.

Fed lamb shipments will continue into May, however, as recent reports show considerable more lambs in Colorado and Nebraska feed lots than were on hand this late in the season during previous years. Some feeders continue to look for a spot when light receipts will force the market to show appreciable upturns and absorb part of this year's losses. The spot is yet to appear and arrivals of Californias are becoming more frequent.

The first Californias arrived shortly after mid-month, which was around ten days earlier than last year but later than was first expected. Sales were made at \$8.75 and \$9, but later arrivals failed to bring over \$8.85. Native springers closed at the same price but during the pre-Easter week market they reached \$11 for a few days.

A little improvement in pelt credits is reported but the narrow range of 50@75 cents still prevails between clippers and woolskins of comparable grades. Any immediate change will probably be to narrow this spread as killers complain of the relatively low dressing percentage of the woolskins.

Feeling seems to be more optimistic in the wool trade now that federal loans are taking distress shipments off the market. Little change in prices seems likely but buyers seem a little less reluctant and are reported to be operating more liberally.

Severe drought in Australia is reported and is expected to result in wool supply decreases there, which should tend to exercise a favorable influence on prices here. The carryover from last year's clip may also be considerably lower than was estimated earlier.

Offsetting these favorable influences to some extent, however, is the continuation of the business recession and the British trade treaty which is still hanging fire. Until the trade is informed as to the terms of the treaty, little inducement is offered them to incur obligations in the form of wool purchases. A mostly hand-to-mouth buying of wool is likely to be the rule until that time.

Feeder classes of lambs were in narrower demand late in April and prices here were off around a quarter from the previous close. At one time during the month when demand was better, shearing lambs carrying enough finish to attract killer competition reached \$8.15.

Aged sheep were scarce all during the month and the run consisted mostly of ewes. Woolled ewes closed at \$5 and shorn offerings ruled firm at \$4.50. Breeding ewes were nominally steady as too few changed hands to test the market.

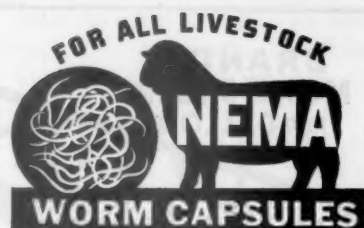
James A. Lonsbury

### Kansas City

**T**HE net change in old crop lamb prices for April was small, but new crop lambs broke 50 to 60 cents from the March close and were 85 to 90 cents under the April high. Late in the month old crop lambs were beginning to fade out of the picture and new crop offerings were on the increase. This shift naturally put the old crop in the stronger position but that change did not come until after wool lambs sold below \$8 in the third week of the month.

During April the price on winter fed lambs moved within a range of \$1. The high point, \$8.85, was reached on the 7th and the low point, \$7.85, was recorded on the 21st. However, the bulk made \$8 to \$8.50 on most days and the average was slightly above March. Closing monthly prices beginning with December at \$8, continuing with January at \$7.50; February, \$8.35; March, \$8.40, and April, \$8.50, shows that the market edged up slightly in the four-month period, but this rise was not sufficient to keep feeders from a big loss. Fortunately it was an excellent season for weight gains, or feeders losses would have been materially larger. Another favorable factor was that feed lot death loss was small.

Winter fed lambs were marketed at unusually heavy weights and as a result tonnage increase was, at times, a factor in causing a setback in the market. However, killing interests now are less sensitive to weight than a few years



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ago when they sought lambs under 90-pound averages. America probably will never demand heavy lambs as the English trade does, but trade permission for heavier carcasses would give winter feeders a better opportunity to cash in on weight gains.

As is usually the case in April, an increased per cent of the winter fed lamb offerings were shorn grades. Those that originated in the southern feeding sections had been freshly shorn, but bulk from northern areas carried full fleece. The early April snow and cold weather checked shearing temporarily and in some sections caused considerable loss in new crop lambs. On the March close, shorn lambs brought \$7.50 and on the April close, \$7.60. About the middle of the month the price dipped below the 7-cent level but there was a quick rally. At the high point best shorn lambs sold at \$8. A good many lambs, still in feed lots, will be shorn before they are marketed next month. It looks like some feeders are going to get dangerously close to the yearling line before they get through marketing. Practically the entire southern area is cleaned up on fed lambs. The Arkansas Valley has a few and the main supply is in the Scottsbluff and northern Colorado sections.

New crop lambs began to show up late in March and by late April they began to dominate the market. March and early April offerings had an Easter background, and sold at \$9.25 to \$10, the high point coming April 9th. In the next week they broke slightly and immediately following Easter they were more than \$1 under the peak but towards the close they firmed up again under broadened demand. In March Kansas City received 3,178 new crop lambs from Arizona and in April 53,798. California, southern section, contributed 4,218 lambs in April. About the middle of the month a heavy movement of California lambs got under way to northern markets and it looks as if May shipments from that state will be larger than in the same month last year.

Fat sheep, which found an unusually broad outlet the first half of April, encountered decreased demand and falling prices the latter half of the month.

In the first two weeks ewes sold at \$4 to \$5, mostly \$4.50 to \$5. Towards the close of the month \$3 to \$4.25 was the quotable range. A good many fed shorn ewes went through market channels during the month and the visible supply is about cleaned up. It had been anticipated that Texas would put a material supply of grass sheep on the market in May, but the April freeze in the sheep country has caused shipping dates to be set back two to three weeks and range conditions the next few weeks will determine volume.

April receipts were 149,748 as compared with 157,871 in the same month last year. The entire decrease was in winter fed lambs from this immediate trade territory. Arrivals in the four months were 464,709 as against 572,832 in the same period last year.

C. M. Pipkin

## St. Joseph

Receipts for the month of April were 117,620 compared with 115,465 in March and 119,865 in April a year ago. Of the month's total 50,700 were from Nebraska feed lots, 40,100 from Colorado, 4,600 from Texas and New Mexico, and 4,600 from California and Arizona.

The market for fed lambs was uneven during the month, but closed steady on woolskins, while clips are 50 cents lower. At the close of March best woolskins sold at \$8.50, on the 7th of April the top reached \$9. After this values declined, dropping to \$7.90 on the 21st, then showed some strength, and closed with best at \$8.50 or steady with a month ago. Best clips sold at \$7.50 on the close, with others down to \$7.25. A few native spring lambs sold early in the month up to \$10, but receipts of this class were very scarce on late days, and choice kinds were quoted at \$9. A few Arizonas sold \$8.60@9.60 with quotations up to \$9, or slightly higher on the close. Aged sheep show little change for the period. Best clipped ewes sold at \$4.50 on the close, a few woolled yearlings reached \$7.75, with old wethers and twos quoted \$5@6.50.

H. H. Madden



## Denver

**P**RICES of fat lambs were little different at the close of April at Denver than at the opening of the month. Fat ewes were scarce and sold generally 50 to 75 cents higher at the end of the month than at the beginning.

The opening top on fat lambs was \$8.75 while the closing top was \$8.40. There was considerable fluctuation during the month, best lambs selling up to \$9 freight paid on April 7. A total of 19 carloads of Wyoming fed woolled lambs arrived during April and sold mostly from \$8.25 to \$8.60 flat basis early in the month and at \$7.80 to \$8.40 the latter part of April.

The first spring lambs of the season arrived from Arizona on April 4th and sold at \$9.10 flat. On the 7th of the month four loads of Arizonas sold at \$10 flat. The remainder of the month 17 loads of Arizona springers sold all the way from \$8.50 to \$9.60.

California spring lambs started moving to market at Denver on April 11 a total of 332 single decks selling at this market at \$8.50 to \$9.50 during the mid-month sessions and from \$8.75 to \$9.15 late in the month. Utah and Western Colorado spring lambs sold at \$9.35 and the first Idaho ranch spring lambs on April 15 sold at \$9.

Clipped lambs were fairly numerous, 32 loads arriving from Idaho, Utah, Wyoming and Colorado and selling from \$7.50 to \$7.75 for best and fair kinds down to \$7.25. Three loads sold early in the month at \$8 freight paid. Shorn ewes sold from \$4.50 to \$4.75 flat, being in good demand and comparatively scarce all month.

Receipts of sheep and lambs at Denver during April were 230,133 head, being 33,000 more than came to market during the same month last year. Most of the increase was attributed to a greater number of California spring lambs being received this year during April than last. Some increases were also noted from Wyoming, Oregon Utah and Arizona. Colorado contributed 158,500 head during the month, California 54,500 head; Wyoming 6,600, Arizona 5,400, Utah 3,100, Idaho 1,100 and Oregon 1,000.

For the first four months of 1938 a total of 706,500 head of sheep and

lambs were received at Denver of which Colorado sent in 545,000 head; California 54,000; Wyoming 33,000; Utah 31,000; Idaho 30,700; Arizona 5,400 and Oregon 3,300.

Around 6,000 head feeder lambs were sold during April to go to feed lots of Colorado, Iowa, Nebraska, and other states. Atlantic coast and interior Iowa packers took 116,000 head of fat lambs or about 65 per cent of all the fat lambs sold during the month at Denver, and an increase of 17,000 head over the number taken by these same interests in April, 1937.

For the first four months of 1938 351,000 fat lambs were purchased at Denver by Interior Iowa and Atlantic coast packers, being 60,000 more than these interests purchased during the same period of 1937.

Total slaughter of lambs at Denver during April was nearly 32,000 head, or about the same as a year ago. For the four months ending with April 30, the total slaughter at Denver was 131,500 head, or about the same as a year ago for the same period.

W. N. Fulton

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## Around the Range Country

(Continued from page 13)

**NEVADA**

Mild temperatures prevailed as a general rule, the few cold snaps being unimportant. Moisture in the form of rain and snow came occasionally, with only minor deficits in parts of the State. Lambing, calving and shearing progressed under favorable weather conditions, and livestock have entered the summer range areas in good shape.

**CALIFORNIA**

Temperatures ranged near normal for the month as a whole over the state generally, but cold weather in northern counties late in the month, and in some sections right early, retarded vegetation. Rains have been light and scattering, outside the desert areas. However, pasturage is generally excellent, and not in immediate need of more moisture. Livestock are all doing well.

**OREGON**

Temperatures near normal occurred during the daytime in parts of the state, but as a rule were rather low, retarding vegetation growth somewhat. Precipitation as a rule has been ample, however, and forage plants and grasses are thriving. Shearing got a late start, but has since progressed favorably. Cattle and sheep are all in fairly good condition, mostly entering or already subsisting on native forage.

### Keating (Baker County)

Our range feed is better (April 25) that is has been for ten years or more.

We have finished lambing and our percentage runs around 135. Conditions were very favorable during lambing, the weather being very mild.

Shearing is going on, with 12½ cents with board as the general rate. No sales of wool have been reported, but I do not think many of the growers will use the C. C. C. loan as the fixed value was not high enough.

We are not having so much trouble with coyotes this season due to the fact that we have a very good trapper at work.

Wayne E. Phillips

**WASHINGTON**

Seasonal temperatures prevailed, being mild enough to promote vegetation growth steadily through the month, excepting at the higher elevations. Precipitation occurred at frequent intervals, though it was not as heavy as usual. A little flooding of lower pastures was reported from western counties, but some eastern sections could do with more moisture. Shearing is progressing. Livestock are in good condition.

### Hanford (Benton County)

The weather in March was colder than for the same month in 1937, but grass has been better.

Conditions were excellent for lambing, which is all through now (April 5). We have marked 145 lambs per 100 ewes in comparison with 135 last year. However, we bred fewer ewes this season.

The good weather we have been having seems to be helping the coyotes out; anyway they are increasing.

I think that the Commodity Credit Corporation will get all the wool that they can accept.

Simon Martinez

### Dayton (Columbia County)

We have been having blustery weather, but feed conditions are good (April 8). Lambing has started under favorable conditions and thus far the percentage of lambs saved is about 5 points above that of 1937. Slightly fewer ewes were bred to lamb this spring.

Nothing is being done in connection with wool at this time, but I think a good many growers will borrow on their wool under the Commodity Credit Corporation arrangement. A few sheep outfits are being liquidated by creditors.

Shortage of money has retarded the work of the Biological Survey and the coyote numbers are on the up.

Remie DeRuwe

### Okanogan (Okanogan County)

We have had a backward spring so our feed is about two weeks later than usual, but at this time (April 6), due to a lot of moisture last fall and this spring, our grass is better than in recent years at this season.

Weather during the first half of March was none too good for lambing, but the latter part was exceptionally favorable. The yield was about 15 per cent larger than the 1937 crop, from about the same number of ewes.

Wool has not been moving in this section, but it is doubtful that the growers will use the C. C. loan, as the majority of them are rather disgusted with the whole government administration.

Very few cases of liquidation of sheep outfits are reported in this district.

Government trappers have been very active in this locality and coyotes are less numerous.

D. P.

**Sunnyside**  
(Yakima County)

Feed on the spring range is plentiful (April 5) though it was a little slow coming out on account of the cold weather we had previously had.

We had ideal weather for lambing and the percentage of lambs saved is larger than that of last year, from the same number of breeding ewes. Feed has been reasonable.

I have not heard of any wool being sold yet this year and unless prices improve, I believe a good many growers will take advantage of the C. C. C. wool loan.

Little liquidation is taking place here.

J. M. Etulain

**North Dalles**

Feed conditions were never better here (April 25). We have had a lot of moisture and it is still raining. The sheep have a fine growth of wool, long, clean and without breaks, because of the good feed and abundance of moisture. While there have been some inquiries about it, no price has been quoted. Most of the growers around here would prefer to sell their wool than to borrow on it. Shearing is being done at 12½ cents per head with board.

About the same number of ewes were bred to lamb this spring as last year, but we have saved about 5 per cent more lambs; weather conditions were very good. No prices have been quoted on future sales of lambs, but there has been some inquiry about them.

Our ewe losses through the winter and at lambing were very small, but since lambing there has been a larger loss than usual from blue bag. We do not know the reason for this or if there is any cure. It seems to be a blood poison; the ewe dies or the bag rots off. Also we have recently had three cases of bighead, something never occurring here before.

Leo F. Brune

**Hover**  
(Benton County)

We have had excellent weather and feed conditions since April 1; in fact the best spring feed in several years.

Lambing is over and according to reports a better percentage of lambs was saved than last year. About the same number of ewes were bred and total losses from all causes have been about normal.

A few sales of wool around 17 cents have been reported, but eventually I think a larger number of growers will get a C. C. C. loan. The shearing rate is 12½ cents with board.

We are having less trouble with coyotes, due to the good work of hunters under the direction of the Biological Survey.

J. R. Ayers

**Quincy**  
(Grant County)

The best range feed is available that we have had at this time (April 30) in several years past.

The lamb crop is about 20 per cent larger that it was a year ago from about the same number of ewes. No contracts have been made as yet for 1938 lambs.

No wool sales have been reported and no doubt a number of loans will be taken under the Commodity Credit Corporation arrangement.

Paul Lauzier

**IDAHO**

Temperatures averaged somewhat above normal through the month, with no important cold spells. Precipitation was only moderate, as a rule, being somewhat below normal. Pastures, ranges and meadows are generally in good condition, and livestock are reported in good flesh for this time of the year. Farm work is well in hand, and irrigation water is apparently ample everywhere.

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## WYOMING

Most of the month was mild and favorable for vegetation and livestock, though early in the month there were some cold, inclement days, which were rather hard on animals in the open. Soil moisture is generally ample, and range forage of all types is making satisfactory growth. Livestock are generally doing well. Lambing and shearing were favored during most of the month; losses were light.

### Guernsey (Platte County)

Weather and feed conditions are a lot better (April 15) than they were at this same time last year. Winter losses have been light.

There are no trappers here and coyotes are increasing in numbers.

Henry Frederick

## MONTANA

Temperatures averaged near or somewhat above normal, though cold nights continued over much of the State, for long periods of time. Vegetation is, however, rather promising, being about the normal stage of development. Precipitation has been light, but rather frequent, with few sections missed. The weather was mostly favorable for lambing and calving, and livestock generally are in good condition. Grass is making a good growth generally.

### Shonkin

We have had a lovely winter and some moisture, more than for several years; and our range conditions are much better than for years past at this time, April 22nd, but we need moisture very badly now as the little grass we now have needs some help. All our stock came through the winter in pretty good shape, lots of milk, lambs strong and plenty of them. Good wool crop coming on.

But what does it all amount to with such a hostile administration, fighting and threatening all business? One day you feel prices are coming along, and next day or month, all is shot to pieces. I have never seen such a conglomeration of men assembled before, doing so little as this past two or three congresses have done. What do we amount to under such legislation? We are the laughing stock of the world; all other countries are coming out of the world

war depression far faster than we are. And why? Because we are rotten with politics; more so than any other country. And we should be just the reverse.

In the last National Wool Grower, I read your plea for the wool grower in the trade agreement hearing, and I am 100 per cent for you in every respect.

I have been at this stock business fifty years and am now seventy years old. Always made some money, but since 1929, not a cent. In fact all we had then has about faded away, and most of this fading has come from government meddling in the business. When are the American people going to wake up and put some sensible, conservative, economical business man back into power? This means Congressmen also. I can probably wiggle through these dark days but what about our children? What chance do they have left for them? You meet some men who will say just wait, we will get him out next time. My answer to this is the harm

is all ready done. And if he gets this \$4,500,000,000 new appropriation, that will insure him another election just as sure as the sun rises and sets. This is what this appropriation is for, to buy another election. And what makes it hurt the most is to think of all the unscrupulous, unbusinesslike, unfair congressmen and senators the people send down there to run our government. No wonder we are in the dumps. It looks to me we are heading the same route the Romans went. Sorry we have to think such things but these are my sentiments.

I am one great anxiety yet. I am afraid when my fellow stockmen must go down and out, these relief appropriations will have ceased, and we can then lie down and die like a coyote; while today all relief workers can and are living better than they did when they were on their own hook, and can be buried on relief or in pomp. But who will bury us?

I am very much surprised how poorly the wool fraternity responds with dues both to the National and State Wool Growers Associations. And cannot figure it out how they can be made to come in. I know what a great many woolgrowers and cattlemen say these last ten years or more, "What is the use paying any more dues? We are all washed up anyway." To some extent that is true, but they should donate part anyway.

I think you are doing a wonderful job in your woolgrowers' paper. I like it very much.

J. H. Evers

### Cohagen (Garfield County)

There is better grass on the range this spring (April 25) than for the last two or three years, but it is very thin.

The sheepmen of this county have had to move out during the last two winters on account of feed and some of them sold out last fall. So the number of ewes bred to lamb this spring is 25 per cent below that of a year ago. Losses during the winter were very light, however. Lambing has not commenced yet.

There has been more trapping of coyotes lately.

Otto E. Smith

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